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THEOLOGICAL

MINUTES

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETINGS

OF THE

BRETHREN.

DESIGNED FOR THE

PROMOTION OF THE PEACE AND HARMONY

OF THE

BROTHERHOOD.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING,
MAY 26-27, 1874.

German Baptist Brethren Annual Meetings

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE.

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PREFACE.

A number of our younger brethren having a desire to have the counsels of the older brethren, as given at our Annual Meetings, as a help to them in forming a correct judgment upon things upon which it is desirable they should have correct and uniform views, and to know what has been the order of the church in regard to such things, requested the Annual Meeting to have the minutes collected and published. The request was granted, and the undersigned were appointed a committee to carry out the wish of the Annual Meeting. We have used our best endeavors to collect all the minutes of our Annual Meetings that we possibly could collect, and now publish them in response to the request of the church.

We have thought it best to publish the minutes of each year separately, and to give the names of the brethren, as far as we could do so, who have taken an active part in the labors of our Annual Meetings—thinking it would be satisfactory to the brethren to have this knowledge.

The work is now sent out with a prayerful desire that it may prove a blessing, and a means of edification to our brotherhood.

H. D. Davy.
J. Quinter.

MINUTES

OF THE

Annual Meetings of the Brethren.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1778.

After much reflection, in the fear of the Lord, it has been concluded in union, that the brethren who have taken the attest should recall it before a justice, and give up their certificate, and recall and apologize in their churches, and truly repent for the error. If they can not do this, and will justify themselves, the apostle exhorts us we should withdraw ourselves from every brother who walketh disorderly, and such a brother will be deprived of the kiss of fellowship, of the counsel, and the breaking of bread, until he becomes obedient again. Ministers and elders who have taken the attest, and are sorry and grieved for it, confessedly recall the matter before the justice of the peace, and in the public church, counsel shall be held about them in their churches in presence of one or more ministers or overseers to consider, in the fear of the Lord, whether he or such as before mentioned could serve again in their office. But if such minister or elder should approve himself stubbornly, and justify his course, yea, even teach the same, then we can not comprehend how he can be obedient to the Spirit of Truth, which teaches we shall not touch the unclean thing, nor be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, because Christ has no concord with Belial. There-

fore, we decide that such laborers are unfit in the Lord's vineyard, and also unfit to be members in the church of the living God, until their minds are changed, and they speak again with new tongues, or find their hearts with David. May God have mercy upon us!

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1779.

On account of taking the attest, it has been concluded in union as follows: Inasmuch as it is the Lord our God who establishes kings and removes kings, and ordains rulers according to his own good pleasure, and we can not know whether God has rejected the king and chosen the state, while the king had the government; therefore we could not, with a good conscience, repudiate the king and give allegiance to the state. And it seems to us that those who have done so have committed a fault, on account of which fault we could not break bread with them, but bear with them in love. But, if they would come moved by their own conviction, and would make acknowledgments, being truly repentant, then we might forgive them, and we believe God would also forgive them, and we might break bread with them. But in regard to the laborers (ministers), we think they should stand still in their labor, and not baptize or administer in the breaking of bread. Should they, however, come convinced in themselves to have erred, and show contrition, saying, "We are sorry," then we might forgive them, and be in full fellowship with them, yet, so that the church to which he belongs is satisfied with him, when he should continue in his office. But if such go still further in this matter, as holding office (political) and so forth, show no sorrow, and rather continue in such course, then they should be also deprived of the church council and holy kiss, and *nota bene*, not only the ministers, but all who have taken this course.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1781.

Article I. Inasmuch, at the big meeting at Conestoga, last year, it has been unanimously concluded that we should not pay the substitute money; but inasmuch as it has been overlooked here and there, and some have not regarded it (sad conclusion), therefore we, the assembled brethren, exhort in union all brethren in all places to hold themselves guiltless, and take no part in war or blood-shedding, which might take place if we would pay for hiring men voluntarily; or more still, if we would become agents to collect such money. And inasmuch some brethren have received written orders to tell the people, and afterwards collect (such money), accompanied by a threat of a heavy fine—we exhort heartily, not to be scared to do that which is not right. Still, we exhort, also, heartily, that if a brother should be fined, there should be provision made for such brethren, and assistance rendered as far as concerns money. In case a brother or his son should be drafted, that he or his son should go to war, and he could buy himself or his son from it, such would not be deemed so sinful, yet it should not be given voluntarily, without compulsion. But where this has been overlooked, and the substitute-money has been voluntary, and (the brother) should acknowledge his mistake from the heart, and repent it, the church might be satisfied with him. But when a brother bears his testimony that he can not give his money on account of his conscience, and would say to the collector, "If thou must take it, then use your authority; I shall not be in your way,"—with such brother we should be also satisfied. But concerning the tax, it is considered that on account of the troublesome times (1781, the fifth year of the Revolutionary War), and in order to avoid offense, we might follow the example of Christ (Matt. xvii. 24–27), yet if one does not see it so, and thinks, perhaps, he, for his conscience' sake could not pay it, but bear with

others who pay in patience, we would willingly leave it over, inasmuch we deem the overruling of the conscience as wrong.

Art. 2. Concerning distilleries, we heartily counsel all brethren who have distilleries, that they should by all means endeavor to put them away, in order to escape from the evil so often arising from them, and to avoid offense, and in this the brethren are still entirely united with the conclusion made at Pipe Creek, three years ago.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1782.

Concerning the unchristian negro slave trade, it has been unanimously considered that it can not be permitted in any wise by the church, that a member should or could purchase negroes, or keep them as slaves. But concerning Brother John Van L., who had bought a considerable time since a negro wench, and the same has given birth already, during that time, to four children by fornication, it is the united and cordial counsel of the brethren that the said Brother L. shall let the old negro wench go free from this time on, and shall tell her that she is free; but if she will not leave him after he has given her liberty, then he may enter with her into a contract for her wages. But this setting free or emancipation shall be done before some brethren, as witnesses of the transaction. Concerning the children, it is also unitedly considered that he is to give the children free at the age of twenty-one years, and is to have them schooled and provided with (food), raiment, and bedding during the time, as it is just and proper; and when they are twenty-one years old he is to give them a free (new) dress. Still it is our cordial desire and counsel that if the old negro wench would not like to go away, he (who was her master) should use all diligence to prevent such unchaste life, and lay it before her earnestly, and if she would be free to give her her free papers, etc.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1783.

ARTICLE 1. At this great meeting a unanimous conclusion was laid down with regard to the very offensive evil which has endeavored to gain ground in the church, and by which already much mischief has been done, while the brotherly counsel has been repeatedly given that distilleries (of ardent spirits) in the church (among members) should be put away. And since there are still, from time to time, more erected, it has been at this time unanimously concluded that those brethren who have distilleries should be earnestly admonished to put them out of the way; and when they have been admonished in sincere love once and again, and they would not obey the counsel of the church and not put away this loathsome idol, we could not break the bread of communion with them, and have to withdraw, also, the kiss and church council from them until they are willing again to hear the church, as they have promised also at first, at their baptism, before God and many witnesses.

ART. 2. Concerning taking interest, it is considered that no member should take interest for his money, inasmuch in the law of God it was expressly forbidden, and Christ says that the Scripture can not be broken (John x. 35); and inasmuch the dear and chosen vessel and faithful apostle, Paul, says that Christ became the end of the law, and yet the word of God, and also divine knowledge teaches that in order to become partakers of Christ it is required to deny ourselves entirely of all those things which are contrary to the word and command of God; therefore, we exhort again heartily and unitedly, that such members who might be involved in this point should think of better things, and have more regard and respect for their denied Lord Jesus and his truth, and wish them faith and the grace of God heartily.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1785.

Article 1. Our cordial and united wish and greeting of love and peace to the beloved members, brethren and sisters on South Branch, especially to the loving brethren, Valentine Power and Martin Power, and all the members in your vicinity. We wish you all much grace and peace from God the Father, through Jesus Christ his dear Son, to be faithful to him from the bottom of the heart, according to the guidance and direction of his holy and good Spirit, even unto a blessed and God-pleasing end. Amen. Inasmuch as we have in part seen, and also heard, that there has arisen some difference in several doctrines among some brethren of your church and others, and having also seen the letter of the loving brother, Valentine Power, which he has written to the big meeting, and heard from it his views about "carrying on war," which are to be proved especially from the words of Peter (I. Peter II. 13, 14), so we have considered and weighed the matter in union, and we trust in the fear of the Lord; but yet, for the sake of the word of God, we could not agree with such view, because we do not see it so, and do not understand so the loving Peter in that self-same chapter, nor in his other discourses; but God grant that we may be directed according to his good pleasure.

First, we do not understand at all, from the words of Peter alluded to, that we can give ourselves up to do violence, or that we should submit to the higher powers in such a manner as to make ourselves their instruments to shed men's blood, however it might be done. It is indeed difficult to believe that Peter, what he teaches in one place should have rejected in another place; therefore we can not understand him thus, but that his mind and admonition to "submit to every ordinance of man," etc., is something different. The question arises, How far or wherein are we to submit ourselves? and this question the loving Peter

may answer himself. We find (Acts v. 28) that the higher power to which Peter and John were subjects had commanded them straitly (in our German version, earnestly) that they should not teach in this name (the name of Jesus) any more, but they (the apostles) did not obey herein. And when they were asked again, "Did we not straitly command you," etc., then Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." It will be well, when we attend always to the sense of Holy Writ strictly; and in the very same chapter of Peter alluded to, we see clearly that Peter exhorts for conscience toward God to endure grief and to suffer wrongfully, and says even that Christ became in this our example, that we should follow his steps. Now, we see that Christ always, in all his sufferings, endured them, and that with great patience, and never resisted or defended himself; but, as Peter says, "he committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." We see further that our loving Savior, though innocent, was attacked in a murderous manner by just such men as Brother P. has mentioned in his letter; but the Savior stood fast in the covenant of faithfulness, as the brother stated. In a murderous manner he was attacked, and Peter was quick and ready to draw his sword according to the legal justice of God, and struck a servant, and smote off his ear. But what says the Savior: "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Here, indeed, was the greatest necessity (for self-defense), but all this time the Savior resisted not; but he suffered patiently, and even healed the one whose ear was smote off, acting as it is written: "The righteous shall live by faith;" and again: "I believe, therefore I speak," etc. Thus our Savior had said before, "That ye resist not evil;" for so he believed, and thus he spake, and thus he did.

Further says the loving Savior: "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture has said," etc. Now we will consider a little what already at that time the Scripture was teach

ing about Christ and his kingdom; so we see that the holy man of God, Isaiah, says of the time of Christ: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isa. II. 4. Again says Isaiah (IX. 5, German version): "All war, with confused noise and garments rolled in blood, shall be burnt with fire," etc. So we believe where that fire which Christ came to kindle, where that fire burns, there will be burnt all war, as predicted; for the love to God constrains to the obedience of his commandments, as John teaches, and as Christ requires and says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments;" and his commandments aim throughout at non-resistance.

So we hope the dear brethren will not take it amiss when we, from all these passages of Scripture, and especially from the words of Peter, can not see or find any liberty to use any (carnal) sword, but only the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, by which we cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, as Paul (II. Cor. X. 5) says.

But that the higher powers bear the sword of justice, punishing the evil and protecting the good, in this we acknowledge them from the heart as the ministers of God. But the sword belongeth to the kingdom of the world, and Christ says to his disciples: "I have chosen you from the world," etc. Thus we understand the beloved Peter, that we are to submit ourselves in all things that are not contrary to the will or command of God, and no further.

And as to the *swearing of oaths*, we believe the word of Christ, that in all things which we are to testify, we shall testify what is yea, or what is true with yea, and what is nay, or not true with nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. And herewith we will conclude for this. This we intended to send you in writing with our

dear brethren Daniel Leatherman, and Jacob Danner, and Henry Danner.

Written May 15, 1785, at the big meeting on Big Conewago, from your brethren, united in love, Jacob Saur, Valentine Pressel, Mich. Bosserman, Martin Reinhart, David Studebaker; Peter Dierdorf, Martin Urner, Jacob Stoll, Christian Longenecker, Henry Neff, Lorenz Beckner, Philip Lewig.

ART. 2. Further it was discussed, and unanimously considered, that no brother should permit his sons to go on the muster ground, much less that a brother go himself.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1788.

ARTICLE I. Resolved, unanimously, that hereafter no member of the church, whether brother or sister, under no pretext whatever, should go from church to church, or from house to house, to collect alms; but where there is any want or distress of a member (greater than the church to which he or she belongs is able to relieve), the church shall state the case in writing, and send it to the next church, if necessary by the member himself, and if in that church full relief could not be obtained, the writing should be renewed until relief is accomplished, if even it were necessary to call upon all the churches. And we deem it proper that every church should state on the writing how much is yet lacking.

ART. 2. The next was almost equally important, inasmuch it has happened that members have moved from one section of the country to another, and improprieties had been committed by them in the place from whence they moved, which are such as reflect no honor on the doctrine of the Lord, nor either on (our) Christian profession, so that we had to withdraw from them the kiss of charity,

and they concealed this at the place where they had moved to, and sometimes it was discovered afterward, so that offense of tender minds might result therefrom; we conclude, likewise, and find it more proper and perfect, that such removing family or member should bring a certificate from the church where they leave, to the church to which they move.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1789.

Article 1. At the council meeting of the brethren it was in union deemed good and necessary, and we feel it also to be our duty, to counsel as follows: Inasmuch we deem it our duty, obligation, and office to see to it that union, tranquility, and peace be maintained, that all should be united and of one mind, so that we may, according to the commandment of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, love one another sincerely, and be enabled to love as he has given us a commandment, by which it shall be known that we are his disciples; therefore, it is our desire that every grievance and every offense might be put out of the way; and inasmuch there is a grievance and offense on account of the distilleries of ardent spirits, because the old brethren could not allow them, and sad experience has taught us that almost whole families are gone to destruction, and the children have fallen into drunkenness and a rowdy life, the brethren some years ago came to the conclusion that they should be done away. But this has not yet been done; but there have been more bought and established since, and the evil is still growing. This makes a grievance and offense, that hardly one church can break bread with the other, and as has happened already, that brethren out of love had come a considerable distance, but when they saw that brethren who had distilleries went to

communion, they had to remain away, and go home again in grief, because they had not been able to partake of the memorial of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, on account of this grievous and offensive thing. Thus grief, disunion, and division are brought upon the church. For this cause we beseech earnestly all brethren who have distilleries to be diligent to put them away; and hereby exhort in heartfelt and humble love, all our much beloved fellow laborers in God, to use herein diligence in admonishing each member to obey this counsel of love, so that peace, love, and union may be planted and restored. But whosoever is not willing to deny himself, as it should be indeed, and can not or will not, out of love, obey this our loving counsel, then we can not consider him otherwise but as such who has not yet died (to sin), and is not yet risen with Christ in newness of life, and that he seeks more the things temporal than eternal; more the things on earth than those in heaven; more the things that pass away than the things that remain, and that he is in great danger to lose the everlasting treasure.

Art. 2. Inasmuch as many of our children and young people fall into a coarse life, and a great occasion of it seems to be a want that there is not sufficient diligence used in instructing the children according to the word of the Lord given by Moses in Deut. vi. 7, where we read: "And thou shalt teach them (these words which I command thee this day) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up;" and also the apostle Paul says (Ephes. vi. 4), that parents should "bring them (their children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;" it is opinion (and advice) that there should be used more diligence to instruct our dear youth and children in the word of truth to their salvation, and that it is the special duty of the dear parents, as well as of the pastors and teachers, to be engaged herein,

inasmuch as the apostle teaches, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof." I. Pet. v. 2). And inasmuch as the children of the faithful belong to the flock of Christ, just as naturally as the lambs belong to the flock of sheep; and inasmuch as the word can be brought nearer to the hearts of children in a simple conversation or catechisation, or however it may be called, than otherwise in a long sermon, so that they apprehend the word of divine truth, believe in Jesus Christ, and accept his doctrine and commandments, and walk therein to their eternal salvation—hence we admonish in heartfelt and humble love all our in God much beloved fellow members, dear fathers and mothers of families, as also pastors and teachers, our in God much loved fellow laborers, in the dear and worthy name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given himself unto death for us, that we should die to ourselves, and live to him forever, that they would use all possible diligence that our dear youth might be provoked to love God, and to appreciate his word from their childhood. Do not spare any labor and toil to convince them by our teaching and by our life, not after the manner which is almost too common nowadays, where the young are made to learn something by heart, and then to rehearse it in a light, thoughtless manner, and then are permitted to go on in a life as thoughtless as before—but that they may give themselves up to God in an earnest life. The great Rewarder of all good will undoubtedly remunerate you; for those that have done right shall live forever, and the Lord is their reward, and the Most High provides for them; they will receive a glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the hand of the Lord. Sap. XVII. 17.

ART. 3. Further it has been discussed, and unanimously deemed good and evangelical, that all brethren, in all places, should shun all worldly offices, so as not to serve in any of them, provided it is possible to be relieved from them—such as supervisor, overseer of the poor, collector,

constable, assessor, or also juryman, etc. Yet it is considered, with some difference, such as supervisor or overseer of the poor might be served, perhaps, with least objection; provided, there is no suing, or something else contrary to the word of the Lord. If a brother should be elected to one of these offices contrary to his will, then only that what he would have to do contrary to the gospel should be rebuked in love and compassion, according to the word of the Lord.

Art. 4. Concerning marriages of near relations, especially cousins, was unanimously considered, and deemed good that such marriages should not at all be, and that parents should warn their children earnestly in this respect, so that offense and scandal might be prevented, which have been so often occasioned by it, and that our dear youth may not in ignorance be led into something, where, perhaps, afterward their thoughts might be accusing one another about those things which can not be altered any more, and therefore should be well considered previously in the fear of God.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1790.

Article 1. Unanimously concluded, that we desire and pray that the beloved brother, Valentine P., would desist from his strange notion, because he has renounced with us before God, angels, and men, all things that are contrary to the wholesome doctrine, and we believe and confess that Christ has forbidden to his followers the swearing of oaths and partaking of war. Hence we must keep to his word and truth, and withdraw ourselves from every brother that returns again to swearing and war. It is impossible for us to break the bread of communion with such a brother, who pretends the higher powers were requiring such of him. For they can not compel us, if they would, because we are to obey God rather than men. But now, thanks to God,

we have such a government that will not require of us. what is against our conscience. But should there be any among us having such a conscience as to be able to fight and swear oaths, such a one would not be of us; neither would we break the bread of communion with a minister that would baptize backward, contrary to our faith.

Art. 2. At a (large and) numerous meeting of brethren on the Schuylkill, at (the place of) Bro. John Bach, May 22, 1790, the following was unanimously concluded by the brethren, viz.: We wish and desire that the dear brother, V. P., would desist from his strange notion, because he has renounced with us before God, angels, and men every thing which is contrary to wholesome doctrine, and we believe and profess that Christ has prohibited to his followers the swearing of oaths and the partaking in war. Hence we must hold fast to His truth and word, and withdraw ourselves from every such brother who will justify swearing of oaths and warfare. It is impossible for us to break the bread of communion with such a brother, even if he would allege that the powers that be require us to do so. For our rulers could not do it, if they would, because we must obey God more than men. But now, thanks be to God, we have such a government that will not require of us such contrary to (the dictates of) our conscience. But if there should be some one among us that had such a conscience, that he could fight and swear oaths, such a one would not be of us.

Likewise, we could not break the bread of communion with a ministering brother who would, contrary to our views, baptize backward.

Signed in the great meeting, in the name and with the consent of all the assembled brethren.

George Preiss, Martin Meyer, Michael Frantz, Daniel Bollinger, John Landes, Christian Lawshe, Justus Fuchs, Martin Gaby, Peter Keyser, Sander Mack, Nathaniel Schreiber, David Kuntze, Martin Urner, Peter Leibert, Jacob Boeshor, Jacob Danner, Abraham Lawshe.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1793.

ARTICLE 1. Inasmuch as God has commanded his ancient people Israel, by Moses, and said, "There shall be no beggar among you (German translation), for the Lord shall greatly bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it," etc. Deut xv. 4. And says further, "If there be among you a poor man of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thy hand from thy poor brother; but thou shalt open thy hand wide unto him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need in that which he wanteth." And says again, "Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying," etc. "Thou shalt freely give him, and thy heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him; because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all thou puttest thy hand unto." And again says, "For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy in thy land," etc. Deut. xv. 7–11. And the apostle James says, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom," etc. James II. 5. And inasmuch it has happened by bad people, that such as were actually poor have been robbed of their gifts by men going about and pretending to be brethren, have asked assistance, which they have afterward spent in taverns by drinking and gambling; now, in order to prevent such deception, some years ago, at a large meeting in Conestoga, it was resolved unanimously that no member should go from church to church, or from house to house, to collect alms, etc. And inasmuch as members have been imposed upon since in a deceitful manner, therefore we have concluded again in this present great meeting unanimously, that hereafter no mem-

ber shall be allowed to go himself to another church; but if there should be found a member in want or distress, the overseer in the church where such member lives is to hold counsel with the church, in order to see whether they would relieve the want, and if so, it should not go any further; but if not, then the overseer, with the counsel of the church, should send a letter to the adjoining church with a brother of his church, and if there the want can be relieved, it shall go no further; but if the want be not redressed then according to the finding of that church, it should be proceeded in the same manner from that to the next church, until relief is obtained; so that our loving brethren and members, who, according to the doctrine of Paul, are willing to do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Gal. VI. 10), may no longer be imposed upon in such deceitful manner. This is not to be understood that we should not do good, also, to those poor without the church, etc.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1794.

ARTICLE 1. Concerning the ban, we would very readily deny ourselves so much for our brethren's sake, so as to drop the Jewish word "ban." But the ordinance of the Lord Jesus and his holy apostles we can not give up, even for our brethren's sake, namely: "If any man that is called a brother is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: with such a one no not to eat." I. Cor. v. 11. Here we see clearly that Paul does not mean only the eating in (the Lord's) Supper, but all eating (in his company). This is shown in the foregoing verse very plainly, when it says, "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world," etc. Otherwise we might eat the bread of communion with the fornica-

tors of this world, which certainly he can not have meant at all.

Art. 2. We hear that there arises a strange doctrine, or rather opinion, among the brethren in Carolina, and that some brethren are grieved about this matter, because some believe, say, and teach the following, viz.:

1. That there is no other heaven but that in man.

2. That there is no other hell but that in man.

3. That God has no form or shape; and if a person would worship God, and would conceive in his mind God as in the human form; would imagine or believe that God had an appearance like a man, such person would do the same as one who would worship a horse or any other beast.

4. That God had no anger, and would punish no person on account of his sins.

5. That the dead rise not; for out of the grave nothing would come forth.

6. That they will have nothing to do with the ban (or excommunication.)

For this cause some brethren desire to hear the views or minds of the brethren (in general council), and therefore we inform the loving brethren, that the view or doctrine of the old brethren is, that we are to believe *as the Scripture has said*. For Christ says, "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John vii. 38. Further he says, "The Scriptures can not be broken." John x. 35. Again, we see that Christ in his whole life has looked upon the Scriptures, and has fulfilled them in all things. For when they came, and Peter struck with the sword, the Lord said, "Put up again thy sword into his place, for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Thinkest thou that I can not now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" *But how then shall the Scripture be fulfilled*, that thus it must be?" Matt. xxvi. 50–54.

Now, to come to the before-mentioned points or propositions, our dear brethren will not think hard of us because we believe as it is written, and believe also with David, that the word of the Lord is well refined, and a true doctrine, and that we also believe with Paul, that it is our duty to bring into captivity every thought (all reason, says the German) to the obedience of Christ, etc.

1. Now, to come to the word about *heaven*. Says Moses (Gen. I. 1), "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth; and the earth was without form, and void." Then no man was created yet, and Moses calls something *heaven*, that is not in man. And (Acts I. 9) if we read, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Here we see that there is a *heaven* up on high.

2. "That there be no other hell but that in man." We read (Luke xv. 22, ff) about the rich man, that he died and that he also was buried. Now, it is without contradiction that when he died his soul and spirit had departed from the body, and had found, it seems, according to the word, the hell in which he suffered torments. So we think it would be well for us, if we would on this point or word "*hell*" apply the doctrine of Paul, not to dispute about words; for we can notice in Holy Writ that the word hell is used for different things. But we believe, as it is written, that there is a lake of fire or place of torment, in many places mentioned, which, according to the word, is outside of man, as we read plainly (Matt. xxv. 41) where Christ says, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Here we see clearly that the lake of

fire is not in man, because men are sent into the lake of fire, and it says not that the fire should go into the men.

3. "That God has no shape or form; and if a person would worship God, and would conceive in his mind and believe God having a form like a man, such person would do the same as if he worshiped a horse or any other beast." This, it seems to us, is speaking very derogatory of God, or against God, though we believe, also, from the heart that God is a Spirit, as Christ himself says, and that the true worshipers worship him in spirit and in truth. But not at all contrary to this says John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And further on, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory," etc. Here God has put on a visible form. Now, to be sure, in his worship man should not imagine a form or likeness of God; but if it should happen that a person or disciple would, in his worship in simplicity and sincerity toward God, look to God in the person or appearance of Christ, we consider it far less culpable than for a man to worship a horse or some other beast, and deem this a very unbecoming expression.

4. "That God has no anger, and punishes no person for his sins." Now, we believe also with John, "that God is love; and that he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him;" and that God is not angry like an unconverted man, but that penal judgments proceed from love to the human family. Yet notwithstanding the holy Scriptures or the men of God in Holy Writ call God's judgment God's wrath, as Psalm xc. 11, "Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath." Again, John the Baptist says (John III. 36), "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, *but the wrath of God abideth on him.*" And that the Lord would punish no man for his sin, we deem to be an error. Christ says himself, "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because

they suffered such things? I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke XIII. 2, 3.

5. "That the dead rise not, for out of the grave nothing would come forth." We believe, as Christ says (John v. 28), "The hour is coming, in the which *all that are in the graves* shall hear his voice, and shall come forth," etc. So we read (Matt. XXVII. 51, 52), "The earth did quake, and the rocks rent, and the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves," etc.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1797.

ARTICLE 1. It was considered good, and also concluded unanimously, that no brother or sister should have negroes as slaves; and in case a brother or sister had such, he (or she) has to set them free. And in case a person is drawn by the grace of God, who has negroes, and desires to be received into the church, then it is to be laid before him (or her) before being received by baptism into the church, that it is the brotherly and united counsel that brethren and members having negroes for slaves, and thinking that they could not at once emancipate them, may hold them so long as the nearest church may deem that they had earned the money, and then, according to the counsel of the church, to let their slaves go out free, with a good suit of wearing apparel (frei kleid) as is given to a white serve. And if they (the slaves) have children, they shall stay with the brother as servants until they are twenty-five years old; he is to have them taught reading and writing, and bring them up in the fear of the Lord, and when they enter upon their (26) twenty-sixth year, to let them go out free with a good suit of clothing (frei kleid). Further it is considered, if a brother, contrary to this conclusion, would purchase negroes, and would not emancipate them, he would have to be considered as diso-

bedient, and we could have no fellowship with him until he sets them free.

ART. 2. It was in union concluded, that if a brother or sister should commit a fault or sin, that were not between brother and brother, but open before the world, then the church is to examine, and if the fault is not so criminal that the church is compelled to cut him off entirely, according to the word of the Lord, and the failing member acknowledges and repents for his sin, such should make a public acknowledgment in presence of belivers and unbelievers. But if he should harden his heart, and would not be obedient to the counsel of the church, then the members could not have fellowship with him until such time he becomes willing to acknowledge and to obey, and then the whole church should heartily pardon and forgive him, in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (See also "*Acknowledgments.*")

ART. 3. It was in union concluded, that the holy kiss and the kiss of charity should not be neglected, since in some places it is almost entirely omitted; but according to the words of the apostles, we should prove ourselves on all occasions as disciples of Jesus, and be steadfast in brotherly love; and notwithstanding all disgrace, we should not be ashamed of the word and following of Christ.

ART. 4. From James v. 14, etc., the brethren testified unanimously, "That the sick who desire and call for it should be anointed, according to the word of the holy apostle, in the name of the Lord."

ART. 5. The case was presented of married people separating from one another, and then the one party marrying again, thus committing adultery. Afterward the other party also marries again, and then the latter comes to the church and desires to be received by baptism as a member in the church, and it was considered that if the church was agreed, and the applicant should heartily repent, confess, and acknowledge the fault (and especially if the first

companion would be dead by this time), we might include such person within the (bounds of the) mercy and merits of Jesus, and receive as a member by baptism.

ART. 6. At the yearly meeting on Blackwater, Va., in 1797, "It was concluded in union that when a brother or sister should commit a fault which was not between brother and brother, but public before the world, the church is to investigate the case, and if the fault was not so criminal as to compel the church to cut him off entirely, according to the word of the Lord, and the failing member sees it and is sorry for his sin, then he should make a public acknowledgment in the presence of the believers and the unbelieving. But if he should harden his heart, and would not obey the counsel of the church, then members could not have communion with such until the time when he becomes willing to acknowledge and to obey."

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1798.

ARTICLE 1. It has been made known to us that last fall, at the great council meeting of the brethren in Virginia, there was some discussion on account of the different views of the brethren, especially those in Carolina, where a brother minister, by name John H., has defended himself in the name of his whole church before many brethren in public, and brought to light many of his own sentiments, in so far that the brethren who still hold fast to the word of truth, according to their best knowledge, could not break the bread of communion with said John H.; would, however, in such serious circumstances, not lightly make a full conclusion without hearing first, also, the mind of their beloved old, and by many temptations, established brethren; hence this is to inform our dear brethren in North Carolina that the case has been presented to the brethren by those brethren

who have seen John H. himself, and have heard from him many of his what can scarcely be called doctrines, but rather perverse apprehensions of Holy Writ, and have quite unanimously concluded that we can not hold said John H., and all who are of his mind, as brethren as long as they do not acknowledge the doctrine of Jesus and his apostles as a true doctrine sent from God unto salvation, and publicly confess, according to which doctrine we are to prove all the spirits and powers operating in us, and necessarily must; for we believe and confess, with David, that the word of the Lord is a true doctrine and well refined; therefore we can not acknowledge such as our brethren any more while they contradict the Holy Scriptures in many points. This we, the undersigned brethren, confess and testify to hold them as other people out of the church as long as they do not seek and keep house according to the Scripture.

Signed by the brethren.

P. S.—(Copy.) This is to certify that I heard John H. say in his preaching that it would be no more sin to him to get upon the top of the barn that he was in, and preaching in, and swear and blaspheme all the new-found oaths and curses, than to pray to God to forgive him his sins, or to bless him in any respect; and he said he had not served such a God that required the prayers of human creatures to forgive them their sins, or to bless them in any manner, these seven years, nor never would. These are the words I heard, as near as I can remember.

Per me, Samuel Van Etten,
Johannes Keller.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1799.

Article 1. Whereas, there has existed for a long time a great difficulty between Bro. C. L. and Bro. J. Z., the overseers of ——— church; and whereas, there have been expressed very grave accusations and hard sayings by C. L. against some brethren, who shall be named hereafter, it has come to pass that Bro. C. L. has selected six brethren, and J. Z. has also selected six brethren, and they (both) have agreed to obey or submit to the advice or united counsel of those brethren, to which also the members (of the church) have consented. So we have assembled ourselves, we trust, in the fear of the Lord, and with a fervent prayer to God that he would bless our hearts with wisdom and understanding, in order to be enabled to counsel our dear brethren wisely, and to come to conclusions evangelical, or according to the doctrine of the gospel. And after having heard the complaints and accusations (of both sides), we have become entirely agreed, and believe all that Bro. L. has done grossly wrong against Bro. Z., and also against brethren A. M. and M. U.'s transactions, and against J. L. and J. St., and whatsoever else might have been done (of the same nature).

Further, we believe also that wrong has been committed by J. Z. against L., but not so grossly as Bro. L. has done. Hence it is our unanimous conclusion, that when C. L. believes in his heart and cordially makes acknowledgment before this present brotherly and member-meeting, and also before ——— (his own) meeting, and asks for pardon, and also makes heartfelt confession for the suspicious (and offensive) expressions against the old brethren, and against L. St., then we will, and it is hoped the members will, bear with him in patience, and he may continue to serve as overseer in W. church. And what concerns Z., we have agreed, that when he makes acknowledgment before the members that he has also done wrong, and asks pardon, he shall also

serve as overseer with L., yet so that in important matters, such as baptism, breaking of bread, receiving and excluding (members), he should not go on without L.'s knowledge and consent; but with regard to holding meetings, attending funerals, and solemnizing marriages, he shall have equal liberty with Bro. L. Now, whoever of them will not submit to this above stated counsel and conclusion shall stand still in his office, until he is willing to accept it, and when it is accepted of both, there shall be hereafter no more heard of those things which are past.

Unanimously concluded by us, the subscribers: Martin Urner, Martin Gaby, Henry Danner, Peter Leibert, Jacob Danner, Philip Engler, Michael Pfoutz, Martin Garber, Daniel Utz, Philip Levy, Valentine Pressel, Stephen Ulrich.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1800.

Article 1. (On account of brethren in Carolina.) It has been made known to us that the brethren in Carolina desire to be informed more plainly concerning the conclusion made at the big meeting on Little Conewago, May 26, 1798, where it was concluded in union about Brother John H., and all who are of his mind, that we could have no fellowship with him (and them) as long as they persisted in their erroneous doctrine contrary to Holy Scripture. And since it is requested to inform them why and for what cause it was done, we should specify by name the causes for which we can have no more fellowship with John H. and his sympathizers—this is to further inform them that the chief causes were already mentioned in a letter from the big meeting held on Shenandoah, Virginia, October 20, 1794, as follows, viz.; that there arises a strange doctrine, or rather opinion, among the brethren in Carolina, and that other brethren are grieved by the same. (The six points are given

in Minutes of 1794.) These six chief points have been specified in the above-mentioned letter of the big meeting, with the answer, as the old brethren have given their views and doctrine in refutation, which letter, as we presume, has been sent to the brethren in Carolina, and they are all desired to read the same at pleasure. Then again, at the big meeting which was held on Little Conewago, May 26, 1798, the same case was once more viewed by the old brethren, and also the Germantown brethren have sent their opinion by letter from Brother Sander Mack, wherein it is sorrowfully lamented that among the little flock of the Taufs-Gesinute in America there should arise men who deny the resurrection of the dead, and that among brothers and sisters some had to have the misfortune to have their eyes smeared by that old, moldy, and horribly stinking leaven of the Sadducees. And in addition a written testimony has come to hand about John H., that he should have said in his preaching, which two truthful men have heard him say it, and have testified to it. (See postcript, Minutes of 1798.)

Behold, much beloved brethren, in view of all the unscriptural doctrines and expressions, we have been moved (compelled) to exclude from the fellowship and membership of the Lord Jesus at that big meeting of May 26th, said John H., and all that are in union with him in such views, and we confirm again that conclusion unanimously in our great meeting of the brethren to-day, renouncing all fellowship with each and all such persons as hold such doctrines and views as are stated above, until they acknowledge their error and repent. Still, we look upon this case with sadness and heartfelt grief, and wish them (grace) of God in Christ Jesus, whose mercy endureth forever, that they may earnestly reflect and consider what may make for their peace and everlasting salvation while yet it is the accepted time and the day of salvation. This we desire from the bottom of our hearts, that the good God, through the tender mercy of Jesus Christ, would give and bestow to them and us for

his merciful love's sake. Amen. So much from us, the undersigned brethren, assembled with one accord, and delivered to the hands of our loving brethren, who also, in words, will make it known to you in the name of the whole fraternity.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1803.

Our cordial and united greeting of love to all our beloved brethren and members of the W——— church. We wish much grace, mercy, and blessing from God, the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to all our fellow-members united with us in love and faith, as also especially to our dear brethren, C. L. and J. Z. It is our heart's desire that the good God would make us all faithful laborers in his vineyard; for all that were hired by that householder were hired to labor in his vineyard, to which we wish you all much grace, blessing, and salvation from God. The cause of our present writing is this: Since we, or some of us, have been informed by our dear brother, Martin Gaby, who, on his journey to us, passed through W———, and also had meeting there, that Bro. C. L., since the big meeting, has only been a few times at meeting, and now for a considerable time has not come any more at all to meeting, so that some brethren feel oppressed in their minds on account of the word or expression which is found in that conclusion made at that big meeting, viz.: "That Bro. J. Z. should not go on with baptism, breaking of bread, receiving and excluding, without L.'s knowledge and consent;" hereupon we, the undersigned brethren, have conversed on the matter, and are of one mind on it, and now the same as it was at that time (three years before), and is in part also expressed in said conclusion, though briefly, that we all considered that Bro. L. had done wrong grossly, and

if he would believe it from the heart, and confess and make acknowledgment, we, and hopingly the members, would bear with him in patience, and then he should serve as overseer in W———, and thus should Bro. Z., in such important matters, not go on without his knowledge and consent. But if Bro. C. L. withdraws from the service, or from the duty of his office, contrary to the doctrine of the apostle, when he says, "If any one has an office, let him attend to the same," (German translation, Rom. XII. 7), if, now, Bro. L. withdraws himself from the service of the church as overseer, so as not to attend the meetings, then he deprives himself of this honor, that Bro. Z. can not counsel with him, if he (Bro. L.) does not attend meetings according to his duty. So it is our unanimous mind, that on this account Bro. Z. should not be bound or hindered to go on in his office, and faithfully discharge its duties, and prove himself a faithful laborer. But if Bro. L. acknowledges according to said conclusion, and endeavors to be faithful in his office, then we desire and hope the members will receive him, and not lay obstacles in his way. We mean, on account of things that are past.

(Signed by most of those who signed the foregoing.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1804.

ARTICLE 1. Whether it should or would be allowed to a brother or sister to keep public tavern by or with a license; it was unanimously considered that it could not be allowed, because we are convinced that it can not be done without disorder, and is rather a hindrance to a godly life and quietness of spirit. It has been deemed good in union, that if a brother or sister should undertake to keep tavern, they should be visited in friendship, and in love and seriousness, and in the name of the church be dissuaded and warned

from it, and shown unto them what disorder and harm is likely to result thereof. Further it was concluded, that if a brother or sister would not hear, accept, or obey such counsel and admonition, then we would have to consider such as disobedient, and could not have fellowship with them. Yet the sisters, who are bound in such matter by the urging of their husbands, and would gladly be relieved from it, but can not without the consent of their husbands, they should be held less guilty.

Art. 2. Further it has been unanimously concluded, that no brother or sister should be engaged, by or with a permit, to sell strong drink, wine, or ardent spirits, by the quart or larger quantity, because it is feared that disorder and harm will arise thereby. Therefore all members who are engaged therein should be earnestly and faithfully exhorted in love and long-suffering to abstain from it, in order that such example may not lead our youth and offspring into licentiousness and scandal. But if one or the other should not heed this counsel of love and admonition, and not hear the church, we could not look upon such act otherwise than as being disobedient according to an impartial judgment.

Art. 3. It was concluded, in concord and union, that ministers should be uniform in solemnizing marriage according to the law of our country, by publishing the bans of every couple three times, and this in the section where they live or reside, as near as possible, so that if there were any sufficient cause or impediment of such intended marriage, it might be brought to light, and all things be conducted decently and in order.

Art. 4. About such brethren who so easily and heedlessly involve themselves in debts, and do not seek counsel, until they do not know any more how to counsel or help themselves; then they want at last counsel, when they desire and need help. It has unanimously been deemed good, that every church where such brethren live should endeavor

diligently to instruct such brethren also in temporal or bodily things, that they should act considerately, and make no more debts than they can pay; and when at times their circumstances should be such that they could not see through, they should seek counsel of prudent brethren, and even the whole church is in duty bound to give counsel when requested; and if the counsel of the church should not be sufficient, it is also her duty to assist as far as possible in a case of necessity. At the same time such should be informed that if they would not receive good counsel they should not expect or hope that the church would feel bound or willing to assist much.

Art. 5. Whether upon request a brother might be ordained as a bishop, who shaves off his beard; it was considered, that inasmuch as God made man with a beard, and again God commanded his people in the law not to cut off the beard; and it was especially required of the priests of God not to mar the corners of the beard; and also Christ, our Master and precursor, together with his disciples, has left us an example herein, in consideration of these and other Scriptures and examples, it (the ordination) could not readily be done in a sound faith, and with an unoffended conscience.

Art. 6. What is to be done with brethren who join the Freemasons? Though we are not sufficiently acquainted with this (secret) association to judge in the case, still there are revealed many trifling things, frivolities, and unfruitful works, so that it is considered highly improper for brethren to be members in their association, or to have fellowship with their works; therefore it has been unanimously concluded that in case there are brethren defiled therewith, they should be admonished in heartfelt love, and informed that if they wanted to be (remain) in fellowship with these (masonic) brethren, we could not have fellowship with them; and if after such admonition they would not hear or receive counsel, we would have to avoid them, and could have no

fellowship with them. But if one were contaminated with this, and would repent from the heart (and renounce all further fellowship with that association) in faith and hope, he might be received again in the name of Jesus Christ.

ART. 7. About persons who are among the English Baptists, and have been baptized by them, and come now and desire to be admitted (in our church); whether they ought to be baptized again, according to the true order of baptism, or if they should prefer it, whether we would receive them without being baptized again? In consideration of the Scripture, and especially because the Lord said to Moses, "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount" (Exod. xxv. 40), it has been concluded, with one accord, that when such come to us we should give them in all things good instruction according to the gospel—yea, according to the Scriptures; and when they believe, and are willing to obey from the heart that form of doctrine according to the counsel of God, they ought to be baptized in the proper order, because there have occurred different examples that heretofore persons had been received by the brethren who thought then they could be satisfied with their single backward immersion, but afterward they were more enlightened have deemed their baptism as imperfect, and to put their conscience at rest, they requested and had to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by a trine immersion.

ART. 8. Concerning buying lottery-tickets with a hope of gain, it was unanimously concluded that such can not be approved in members, and parents should by all means prevent their children from it, because it can not be viewed any better than other gambling for gain.

ART. 9. Concerning the evil which grieves God and angels in heaven, and also the faithful souls on earth, namely, the new fashions which are in vogue in the world, and also here and there are believers who gratify too much the lust

of the eye (Num. xv. 39), and conforming therein themselves to the world; and especially our youth is corrupting itself herein so much that the Lord has almost cause to complain that all flesh has corrupted its way; therefore it has been unanimously deemed good that the bishops and ministers, as also all fathers and mothers of families, should use all diligence to counteract such things that they might spread no further, but rather be put out of the way; especially when persons desire to be received (in the church) it should be laid before them, that such things are contrary to the wholesome doctrine, and that it is their duty to deny themselves; and when they are willing to lay them aside, then they may be baptized in hope, that they will permit themselves to be further instructed, etc.

Art. 10. Our cordial and united greeting of love to our beloved brethren, especially to Brothers C. L. and J. Z., and also to Brothers Jacob H. and John G. We desire and wish you all that may tend to the glory of God, to the salvation of souls, and in the edification of the church. Inasmuch as it appears that Bro. C. L. assumes more authority in the service of the church than it pleases us and the church, and Brother J. Z. has given more out of his hands than is pleasing to us and the church, so that it causes pressure and offense; therefore it is our loving counsel to you that you should keep house in the service of the church in union and concord, so that Brother C. L. should make the commencement in meeting (preparatory) to prayer, and then it is all the same who is speaking first; and when the meeting is to be brought to a close, then the beloved brother, John Z., is to make the conclusion. At the next meeting the loving brother, J. Z., is to make the beginning, and it is immaterial who may speak first; and when the meeting is to be closed, the loving brother, C. L., shall conclude; and so on. In important matters Brother Z. should do nothing without counseling with Brother L.; and so likewise should Brother L. do nothing without counseling with

Brother Z., so that union is preserved. But he who will not keep house thus and give satisfaction to the church, and will not accept the apostolic counsel of love of the beloved old brethren, such should be silent, and can not serve the church in his office. Further, if a person desires to be baptized, and makes known a preference by which brother he would like to be baptized, then that brother, with the counsel of the church, is to satisfy the candidate and forward him. With these lines we have given nothing new, but adhere to the conclusion which has been laid down already six years ago by the beloved brethren. We have further to notice, that there were very rude expressions made by Brother L., saying that there is gone forth a spirit of Satan, and rules in the church, and of this J. Z. is the head, etc.; and even the church has been compared to the rebellious company of Korah. Such should be acknowledged and recalled by all means.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1805.

Article 1. Concerning those who are in avoidance. Since some think that we may or should not even give them the hand, while others would feel disposed at times to offer them the hand as a token that we would willingly assist them to be released and reconciled again, the unanimous conclusion was, that we should be of one mind, and follow the same rule in housekeeping, and it was so laid down, that it might be best to offer them in that view the hand, but to have no dealings with them nor any familiar intercourse until a reformation takes place in them.

Art. 2. Further, it has been considered, that when there is made a conclusion at the big yearly meeting, and there are members who would not heed, nor conduct themselves accordingly, it has been concluded unitedly, that when such

persons can not convince the church by evidence from holy Scripture, and would or did rise up against said church conclusion, would not hear or obey at all, in such case we could not well do otherwise, but after sufficient and friendly admonition, to set them back from the breaking of bread until they learn to do better and become obedient.

ART. 3. Concerning praying (the Lord's Prayer) "Our Father," since some do not make the same expressions as given by the Evangelists from the mouth of Jesus, it was considered, that we should use the expressions according to the pattern of the doctrine of Jesus, our Master, and at the same time contemplate the meaning contained in these words, so that we may pray with the spirit and understanding of the heart, according to the mind of Christ, and in truth.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1810.

ARTICLE 1. About brethren who intend selling bonds, it was considered, that it should not be done without the counsel of the church.

ART. 2. Concerning brethren who use the law for collecting debts, it was considered, that it is unbecoming for brethren to do so, that it can not be permitted, and if they should do such a disallowed thing, they are to be left over to the counsel of the church.

ART. 3. Concerning when brethren or members get at variance or in difficulty with one another, no one is allowed to refuse to the other the kiss for himself, without counsel of the church, unless there had been committed an obvious crime.

ART. 4. Concerning when a member has been put back from the communion, and some from kindness or relationship continue to salute such with the holy kiss, before they

are received again by the church, it was considered as a fault, and should be by no means.

ART. 5. Concerning working on Sundays. Inasmuch as there are some members who are so easily brought to work on Sundays, it has been considered thus, that it should not be by any means, except in cases of necessity, for it is a transgression of the law of God, and that of our rulers.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1812.

ARTICLE 1. In case a brother or sister should desire in their sickness to be anointed, it might be administered to them, provided they would not seek further help from an earthly physician; and if it should so be that the Lord would raise them again to health, and they should fall sick again, and think the Lord would call them away, and they ask again to be anointed, we would have no right from the word of God to refuse them, and it should be left to those brethren's wisdom who are called to do as the anointing will teach them. (I. John II. 20.)

ART. 2. Concerning *feet-washing*, inasmuch as it has happened sometimes that members are permitted to have their feet washed by other denominations, who also practice feet-washing at their breaking of bread, yet not quite according to the word as we can understand it, it is considered advisable that it should not be proper to take part in such imperfect exercises, etc.

ART. 3. Concerning a woman whose husband is dead; and having several children and no property, and her hands too weak to provide for them; it was considered that the church should provide for her, and at the proper time to put out the children in good places, and to good people, and thus supply their wants.

ART. 4. Concerning a woman who was deserted by her

husband; and being informed that he was dead, married again; when afterward her first husband made his appearance again, he showed no concern about her, and went away again; and now he is said again to be dead, and she makes application to be received into the church. Considered, that this can not be done according to the word of God, before there is sure evidence that the first husband is dead, and then upon sincere repentance and acknowledgment she might be received.

Art. 5. Concerning the slave trade and slaveholding; it was considered that it is a most grievous evil, and should be abolished as soon as possible.

Art. 6. Concerning brethren who are sometimes prevailed upon to serve in the office of constable, it was considered that a follower of Jesus could not serve in such office; and if a brother should accept of it, take the oath of office, and serve in it, or by some person else as his substitute, such a brother would exclude himself from the breaking of bread, holy kiss, and brotherly council.

Art. 7. Another case was presented of a woman who was deserted by her husband, and after being informed that he was dead, she married again; but the information proved to be untrue; her first husband made his appearance again, but without calling or claiming her he went away the second time, and now he is said again to be be dead, and she (the woman) now makes application to be received into the church. The brethren decided that it could not be done according to the word of God, until there is evidence that her first husband be dead, and then only she might be received upon true repentance and confession.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1813.

Article 1. With regard to the slave trade and slave holding, it was unanimously considered that it is wrong, and that it belongs to the iniquities of Babylon, making merchandise of *souls of men* (Rev. xviii. 13), and that it is carried on by the spirit of this world, and is contrary to the good and holy spirit of God, by whom all the faithful souls dedicated to God are ruled and led into all truth, and are to come out, according to the counsel of God, of Babylon, not touching the unclean thing, that they be not partakers of her sins, and receive not of her plagues. Hence it is unanimously and in union considered, that no member, neither brother nor sister, shall purchase or sell negroes, and keep none for slaves; members should also, with all diligence, restrain their children from it as far as it is possible while they are yet out of the church. Further it was concluded, if there were members having slaves, or persons who wish to be received into the church and have slaves, that they might hold them in a proper way so long as the church near which they live may deem it necessary for the slaves to earn the money they had cost, and then, with the counsel of the church, they are to be set free, with a good suit of clothing; and if there are any who have not bought, but inherited their negroes, they are to be liberated as soon as the church considers it right and proper. And if members have negro children under their care, or even as slaves, they shall bring them up in an orderly manner, teach them also to read, and keep them, if males, to the age of twenty-one years, and if females, to the age of eighteen years, and then, with the counsel of the church, emancipate them, with a good suit of wearing apparel. Further it has been unanimously concluded, that if members having negro slaves, will not set them free, and thus oppose themselves to the order of God and the loving counsel of the old brethren, who are indeed servants and stewards of God, and even the

united counsel of the whole yearly meeting, then after sufficient admonition they would have to be held bound (according to the word). We would have to deny such members the breaking of the bread of communion, the holy kiss, and the brotherly counsel, yet according to the word of the apostle Paul, to admonish them as brethren or sisters.

ART. 2. Further, it has been considered in union concerning electioneering, viz., giving votes for officers or men for the assembly or Congress, in order to elect them to their several offices. Inasmuch as the appearance of the times into which we have come are grievous (it was the time of the war with England), and inasmuch as party spirit has risen so high in the kingdom of this worlds that men, and even the heads of government are among themselves at variance, therefore it has been viewed in union, that it would be much better if no votes were given in at elections for such officers (by the brethren); for so long as there is such division of parties, we make ourselves suspicious and unpropitious on the one side, on whatever side we may vote. Thereby every one that desires to be defenseless (or nonresistant) may readily see what might be best (for him to do). Moreover, is (not only) our land and (but also) almost all empires engaged in war (in Europe especially); hence it was considered to be best to give in no vote, else we might, perhaps, assist in electing such that would afterward oppress us with war. To pray diligently for our government we believe to be our duty, and to call upon the Lord we think will be most acceptable.

ART. 3. "It has been also again requested of, and counseled by the old brethren, that the great (annual) meeting should be continued in the order as it has been heretofore declared and laid down by the old brethren, viz.: that the ministers and overseers of the churches, every one in his own district and church, should in good time lay it before the church, how some should be willing to go to the big (annual) meeting, and that the church should assist them,

if possible, that some may be able to go, so that from all parts, and if it could be from all churches, some may come to that meeting; and those that will come should endeavor to arrive on Thursday evening so near to the place of meeting as to be able to be at the place Friday morning at nine o'clock, that the business may go on without hindrance."

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1814.

ARTICLE 1. It has been publicly treated at the big meeting on Pipe Creek, about the lamentable disturbance and dissension which have arisen some time ago between Bro. C. H. and some members of this church with him, of one part, and the old ministers and bishop, and especially P. E. and other members, of the other part. This disturbance and dissension have existed already several years, and after said old brethren and ministers and overseers in said church had made many efforts with the church to settle the difficulty with the assistance of God, the troublesome affair has got worse still, so that said old brethren and overseers of said church had no other prospect but to counsel with other strange brethren, and have charged the beloved old brother, Henry Danner, to see to it, that the matter might be settled and put to rest.

Now the loving brother was concerned about it, according to his duty, and has, with other strange brethren, paid a visit at Pipe Creek, and had Bro. C. H. and his adherents invited to come to the council meeting. But Bro. C. H. objected; he could not come on account of his sore hand, and they came not. To the loving brother, Henry Danner, to whom as aforesaid was intrusted this important affair, it was a heavy burden; so he appointed another time, and requested old brethren from afar, and paid with them another visit at Pipe Creek, especially to Bro. C. H. and some

of his adherents, and invited them again to come to the (council) meeting. Bro. C. H. again would not consent to come, and they did not come again, with the objection that it was not yet the time to settle the matter, and secondly, that they had not had sufficient information about the council meeting, and so they had not prepared their testimony. Then the dear brethren that had come from afar, counseled with the loving brother, Danner, that this case should not remain thus, while there were members suffering under it, and some even had to depart this life under this pressure and sorrow; under these considerations, and with the advice of some brethren (of the church probably), they appointed again another meeting some months hence, and at once wrote and signed a letter of information to Bro. C. H., and appointed some brethren to bring the letter to Bro. C. H., and to read the same to him.

When the appointed time of the meeting came near that strange brethren should have come, at least twelve, then Bro. C. H., before the time, went and made reconciliation and settlement with Bro. P. E., externally with hand and kiss before the church, so that many rejoiced over it, and the meeting and appointment for the strange brethren was recalled. But that settlement and peace, alas! did not last long, and Bro. C. H., with his adherents, began again to complain against the church, and brought, not only new complaints against the church, but raised also again the dispute about the land here and there, and without counsel and investigation in the church of the new complaints, and without counsel of other old brethren and bishops, and entirely contrary to the word of God and to the order of our Chief Shepherd and Bishop of his church, and head of his members, caused a division, and tore himself with other members from the church and the members, whom he had brought into confusion and mistrust against the old brethren and church, with the hard and suspicious complaints which he and others, against the order of God,

have scattered far and wide; while, with all the invitations when strange brethren came, they never came to this day, in order to prove them with sufficient testimony, as it is required by the Holy Scriptures, or God in his word.

He has now, with those members he led astray, formed a separate congregation, and broke bread with them; not at the proper time, inasmuch as we are not to keep the feast with the old leaven, neither with leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Bro. C. H., with the others, have known that he was not in peace with the church, and especially with the housekeepers, nor they with him; and the Lord Jesus teaches us in these precious words, "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matt. v. 23, 24. Those whose eyes are anointed can clearly see that the whole thing is perverse. For the Spirit of God leads into all truth and union, and "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (children) of God," and "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

And not only this, but at said Supper he has introduced strange exercises, which our dear old brethren have not had, who indeed, as we believe, walked in the light, and in the pure knowledge of the truth kept house, and entered, as we hope, into blessed rest. And as some have heard, there has been drawn a shallow reason from Christ's words, to that practice, whereby that practice can not be established, and it is to be feared that said new practice is more calculated to cause disturbance, trouble, and division within, and rejoicing without among other denominations, as if the old Baptists and Brethren would have now to learn from them, that they had opened our eyes, and thus seeking persons who are yet in the twilight, may be con-

fused, thinking the old brotherhood must not have had the full light, else they would not begin new practices, and thus this would serve more to scatter than to gather, and more to the dishonor than to the honor of God.

Now, since this matter has thus worked from time to time, as has been briefly related, we, the undersigned, upon the request of said church, and more for the sake of God, have found it our duty to take the case in consideration at this occasion, namely, in said big meeting; and several brethren have visited Brother C. H. and his wife, and others of his members, before the meeting, and have invited him to come with his company and bring his testimonies to prove his heavy complaints or accusations, in order that those members who might have committed a fault could be convinced, that there was hope, if they would, that all could be brought to rest and reconciliation. But he would not come to lay the case before the big meeting, and said there were too many judges at the big meeting—it would be better to have too few judges than too many. However, on the second day he came to the place of the meeting, and said if the matter was to be settled the land would have to be altogether measured, and they would bear the expenses.

But the council of the big meeting considered that with further deferring the case could not be improved, and slowly or never be brought to an end, and the measuring would scarcely contribute to that end. Yet they shall have perfect liberty to have the land surveyed, as it has been spoken about. And upon the whole of said case it has been mutually concluded by the whole council of the big meeting, inasmuch as Brother C. H. was never willing to come and bring sufficient testimony to prove said accusations, we will hear and accept the testimony of Brother P. E., and of all those who were accused, on their good conscience, in hope and trust as being true, until sufficient testimony should come, as the Scriptures require; and if sufficient testimony should come against one or the other, then shall he who is

concerned submit to the council of the church, which Bro. P. and the accused have agreed to and promised before the big meeting. Upon this condition we declare the beloved brother, P. E., and the other accused, as absolved, and intend at this and other occasions to break the bread of communion in confidence and love with them, and to hold with them full fellowship, as the gospel of Jesus requires, and we wish them light, grace, and power from God to hasten forward on the way of peace to the land of blessed rest. Amen.

Further, it was mutually concluded that the case, as above stated, is wrong, and contrary to God's order, according to the example and testimonies of the Old and New Testaments of the Lord. From these weighty causes, the big meeting concludes that impartial brethren should be selected, and they should give themselves up for God's sake, to pay the church a general visit from house to house, and before the meeting takes place to visit, also, Brother C. H., and all those who have cut off themselves with him, in a friendly manner, and to urge them to take steps toward peace, concord, and reconciliation with the church and with God, in as far as mistakes have been made, and all those who should thus come should be cordially forgiven by the whole church.

But if one or the other would *not* accept or receive counsel according to the doctrine of Christ and his apostles, and *not* abstain from their error, with such we could not break bread, and would have to deny to them the kiss and church council after a long-suffering and sufficient admonition; and if Brother C. H., with all his adherents, should oppose themselves, we would have to hold them, as the Lord Jesus says, "If he shall neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." The whole big meeting—yea, all members, should be engaged and prayerful, that God would meet us with his blessing and salvation. Amen. Signed, Samuel Garber, Benjamin Bow-

man, George Preiss, Daniel Stober, Nicholas Martin, Jacob Beshor, Samuel Arnold, Martin Garber, David Pfoutz, John Eby, Christian Long, John Schleifer, Daniel Long, Daniel Garber, Michael Etter, Henry Gibbel, Herman Blaser, George Petry, Daniel Arnold, David Albaugh, John Diel, Jacob Shenefelt, John Price, Isaac Long.

In the year 1814, November 17, the strange brethren have come again to us on Pipe Creek about the difficulties with C. H. and his adherents, and have visited and admonished them again to peace, and union, and acknowledgement; and with these lines we inform our dear members of Pipe Creek Church, briefly, how we found it on our visit to C. H. and the members that have turned away from the church. What concerns Brother C. H., the visiting brethren have proposed he or they should elect six brethren on their part, whom they would, and they should search out their true testimonies; and the old brethren on Pipe Creek should also elect six brethren, and prepare their testimonies, and then the difficulties should be settled, with the help of God, according to the testimonies.

Brother H. said he would have nothing to do with it, and that he would have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. This was the amount upon the whole, upon which we told him the conclusion made at the big meeting. Likewise we have told Brother J. W., upon his insolent and untrue asseverations, said conclusion. The said conclusion is, that if after patient admonition they would not return to union according to the truth of Jesus, we must deny to them, according to the gospel, the communion, in so far as not to break bread with them, and to refuse the kiss and council, until they should become repentant. We must observe here, that we have not seen any more of Bro. Benjamin Bowman and Nicholas Martin, after they had visited their part, and know not whether they have told the conclusion to any members. As concerning the other members who are with C. H., it was found different; yet

several have declared that they would not fall away or separate from the old brethren, still they are halting at several points. We have told some, by heresay and suppositions, they had got off from the church thus far. Now, they should only believe what can be testified; in this way they might be restored and put right again. In this manner all the members should labor in this case with prayer and supplication to God, that by his co-operating grace all, and especially those who long after peace, could come again to peace and union with the church, according to the mind of the spirit of God and his soul-saving truth, in hope that they will reflect and choose that what is counseled them according to the gospel, viz.: to strive after peace with the church. Thus we have told the other members we visited the conclusion only in this form, that those who would continue to adhere to C. H., and go on with him in his strange works, all such would be held as is expressed in the conclusion until they would return repentant; that is, all such who would continue to break bread with him and justify his strange baptism. Signed, etc.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1815.

In the big meeting of the Brethren's church, which was held in White Oak church with Bro. Joseph Hershe, May 13, 1815, the following was discussed, and held counsel on the complaints arising in different parts of the church of the Brethren concerning the strange views of some members, which are deemed by us as erroneous and not founded on the Holy Scriptures, which Holy Scriptures indeed shall be the sole foundation of our faith. And since we live now in perilous times, in which arise many and manifold temptations, and also many errors, so that weak minds may be easily led astray and in confusion, not knowing

what or how to do in order to salvation. And inasmuch now, at this time, among the many religious parties and denominations there are such whose doctrines on repentance, on baptism, and on the forgiveness of sins through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, and on the sanctification through the Holy Spirit, seem to differ not much from those of the old brethren, only that they, according to our views, as the Word teaches us, do not put every thing in the right place.

They require of a man, before he is to be baptized, that he should have passed entirely through repentance, and should have a lively experience of the forgiveness of sins, and that he should have obtained the new birth completely before baptism, so that they must confess such and be enabled to say how they came to it; and that only then they were fit to be received by baptism into the covenant of the grace of God. There should have been made even such expressions in public meeting, that a man must have obtained complete sanctification first, else he would be baptized too soon, as has been credibly testified. Now for such a confession or doctrine we see no foundation in Holy Writ, nor a single example in the whole New Testament. Candidates for baptism were directed to repent, or to a change of mind; they were exhorted by John to bring forth fruit meet for repentance—that is, to lead such a life as would be consistent with a change of mind; and of Christ and his apostles we do not find that any more was required of canditates than besides repentance, faith in the gospel—item, faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Hence we find no authority to ask more of candidates but what is founded in the word of God. We believe that baptism is the entrance into the new covenant, according to the Scriptures. We also believe that the foundation which was laid by Christ and the apostles is the only foundation on which we have to build, and that we have no right to change or amend any thing. We believe also that the (individual)

cases of repentance are very different; that some have much greater difficulties to overcome than others; therefore we make (establish) no rule herein, because the Scripture does not give any.

And since we can not agree in the above-named points, with such who hold these points as articles of their faith, inasmuch as the word of God does not teach us thus, it happens sometimes that harsh expressions are made about the old brethren; for instance, "that they were a crowd of dead men, who had not yet come to a new life;" "unconverted, who knew nothing yet of conversion;" "a dead heap of flesh;" "as laying all in a heap in death;" that not one (of them) had come to a newness of life, or he could not remain among them; and on account of their baptizing too soon, the life of God commenced in them was presently again extinguished, so that they could not come to the (new) birth, etc.

Such expressions do not proceed from love, nor will they build love. We would let these good people willingly (to enjoy their sentiments) in peace, if they would also permit us to enjoy (ours) in peace. It does not work unto union according to the command of Christ. It causes schisms and divisions. It seems as if it was the object and purpose also in our churches, to fill weak members with their notions, and to cause confusion, so that many members become doubtful of their old brethren, since they are represented to them so cold and dead. And such we counsel and admonish, out of heartfelt love, that they should hold fast to the word of God, and not be carried about with every wind of doctrine. And it is our advice to all overseers and householders to admonish all the members to this, that they should take fast hold of the written word of the gospel; and if it should happen that some of our members should unite with such, break the bread of communion with them, receive them in their houses to hold meetings, so long as those stand in such separation

against us, they (our members) should be admonished, and if they would give heed to it, we ought to have patience with them; but if they would not hear or be advised, they could not stand in full fellowship with us. For the Lord Jesus and the apostles teach us that we should be one, of one mind, speak the same thing, and that there should be no division among us; and to this end we also labor to be obedient to the gospel of Jesus by the grace of God.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1817.

Article 1. Concerning the use of tobacco, it was in union considered, that if a member should be contaminated with it, such should be admonished to quit it; and if it would not be told, such a member could not be elected to any office in the church.

Art. 2. Concerning conforming to the world in wearing fashionable clothing and everything that is high, without exception, it was considered, that when a member should herein be found guilty, he should be admonished; and if the admonition would not be heeded, we could not hold such in full fellowship, inasmuch the Savior says, "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke xvi. 15.

Art. 3. Whether the nearest friends of a member that fallsunder the censure of the church, or a candidate wishing to be received into the church, may be present at the council of the case? Considered necessary that the nearest friends should withdraw

Art. 4. Whether testimony against a member may be received from outsiders (persons not members), in case of a crime being laid to the charge of a member? Considered, that we could not pass judgment on a member upon testimony from outsiders; but in case one single member could

testify with truthful outsiders, then we could and might judge according to the word of God, for "*in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*"

ART. 5. Whether brethren or their children may go on the muster-ground or not? The counsel was, that no member may go there, and prevent also their children from going on that ground, and not willingly permit it to them as long as they are under parental authority; should a brother do so, he could not be in full fellowship with the church; for the Savior said to Peter, "Put up thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword, shall perish with the sword."

ART. 6. Whether we may sell a note (or bond) or not? Considered, that no member should sell a note without the consent of the debtor.

ART. 7. Concerning working on Sunday, it was concluded that members should do no work on Sunday, except in cases of great necessity, inasmuch as the apostle writes to "give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the gentiles, nor to the church of God." I. Cor. x. 32.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1818.

ARTICLE 1. Concerning trouble arising in some churches on account of the marriage of young people, and their solemnization. Inasmuch some desire to hold fast to the counsel or conclusions of the old brethren, which was, that previous to marriage the bans were published three times, which they think is a good order, and not at all inconsistent with the gospel; but now some assert that this publishing at the close of the meeting was against their conscience, and think that the effect of the word preached before was thereby interrupted; while, on the other hand, brethren think that there is danger in solemnizing marriage without

publishing before, inasmuch we can not know how matters stand with young folk, and there might be danger, even if they are neighbor's or brother's children; and we think, if we were so closely restricted by our conscience not to publish the bans, then we would also marry none. Yet we desire to control no man's conscience, provided he acts for peace, and as they say, for conscience' sake. We desire all housekeepers in churches might be united in one mind to hold fast to the counsel of the old brethren; for unto peace God has called us.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1819.

Article 1. Concerning a woman who married a man who had deserted his wife because she had committed carnal intercourse with another man, as he says, proved by the time of her delivery. Considered, if there can be found no evidence as his (the husband's) assertion, it is not sufficient to decide that it was or is no true wedlock, consequently the woman he has now, with himself, will be considered as adulterers as long as the first wife lives, according to the declaration of the Apostle Paul, Rom. vii. 2, 3. This is left over to further investigation. So we find no liberty to receive persons who live in adultery into the church, as long as the first marriage is not dissolved by death, and then only upon sincere sorrow and repentance they may be received into the communion of the faithful. But if those who are in such case would resolve firmly for God's sake to live separate, and would also indeed do so, and lament sincerely their former state—then there might be mercy in store for them, and they might be thereby reconciled to God.

Art. 2. Whether we could break the bread (of communion) without having a supper? We hold, that we ought

by all means in all the exercises (ordinances) look to the testimony of Jesus and his example; for the Lord Jesus, shortly before his suffering, when he instituted the Lord's Supper, etc., after he had washed his disciples' feet, he did eat the supper with them, where he also dipped the sop, and gave it to Judas. (See John XIII. 26.) And Mark XIV. 18: "And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, one of you which eateth with me shall betray me." And verse 22: "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body," etc.

ART. 3. How it is considered, that brethren receive other preachers (from other denominations) into their houses, in order to solemnize the marriage of their children after the manner of the world. Considered, that matrimony is a solemn matter, whether we commence it with or without a blessing, and hence we think we should have so much love for our children as to be concerned that they might enter upon that state with a blessing; and we believe no man can communicate such but he that is animated by the Holy Spirit, by whom he will also be led into all truths. Hence we should have our children married by a brother who is authorized to do it, with a blessing and brief exhortation; also without too great superfluity of meat and drink, so that we can believe to be pleasing to God—for all extravagance is sin.

ART. 4. Whether a member is permitted to marry without counsel of the church, and without publishing the bans? Answer: We know that all who have entered into the covenant of grace have promised also to receive counsel, and it seems to us, in such an important matter as marriage is, we should by all means seek counsel of our fellow believers. And concerning the publishing of the bans, it is our loving counsel, and daily experience teaches us, that it is very good to hold to a good order, inasmuch by the publishing the bans many an accusation is cut off, while on

the other hand much deception is prevented, which would have free course without the bans.

Art. 5. Whether it is not displeasing in the sight of God that there is so much conformity to the world at *funerals*, with the superfluity of drink as well as the superabundance of eatables, besides what is needful and proper? Considered, that all superfluity in meat and drink, together with all extravagance in clothing, is an abomination in the sight of God, which we ought to avoid by all means, that the body of Christ may not be mixed up so much with the body of the world (especially at such solemn occasions as funerals).

Art. 6. In a similar case of a woman marrying a man who had left his wife, both were considered adulterers while that first wife lives, according to the declaration of the Apostle Paul (Rom. VII. 2, 3); and that the church could not receive them as members until the first marriage was dissolved by death, and then only upon heartfelt sorrow and repentance. But if those who are in such condition would for the sake of God (and their salvation) firmly resolve and actually (endeavor to) live separate (and apart from each other), with godly sorrow for their former transgression, they might find grace and be reconciled with God (through Christ).

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1820.

Article 1. In the counsel of the assembled brethren at the big meeting in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in Conestoga church, at Bro. Joseph Royer's, May 19, 1820, was proposed for consideration in church council the disturbances or troubles arising in the State of Ohio, in Mill Creek Church, by diverse doctrinal points which have been there introduced, viz.: it has been taught by Bro. A. M.,

who is a co-laborer in the word, that a man must have a real experience of the forgiveness of sins, and that he must be entirely born anew before he is baptized, which has been credibly testified. And it was considered at this meeting that there is no gospel evidence for such doctrine, and it was concluded with one accord and unanimity that if a brother will preach and persist in such doctrine, he could not be permitted to teach; for it is not consistent with the teaching of the apostle, when he says (Acts II. 38), "Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." This is thus laid down until such brother will prove his or such doctrine on the ground of the word of God. It was also considered that Bro. J. K. went too far with the harsh expressions he made against Bro. A. M. in presence of the brethren, and it is required of him to make acknowledgment for such hard expressions, or else we could not be well with him.

N. B.—The expressions were these, that he is to have said, from the teachings of Bro. M., there was apparent a spirit of Methodism and of the River brethren, and an Antichrist, etc.

ART. 2. A brother had used hard expressions against a brother in presence of the brethren, such as "from the preaching of Bro. M. there was apparent a spirit of the Methodist and River brethren and an Antichrist!" Considered, that the brother is to make proper acknowledgment for these harsh expressions, otherwise we would not be satisfied with him.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1821.

Article 1. Whether an ordained brother may collect debts by the power of the law? Considered, that no brother, much less one that is ordained, has a right to do so according to gospel doctrine, neither for himself nor for another.

Art. 2. Whether an ordained or private brother may serve as an executor, where he knows beforehand that the law must be enforced, as has been likewise considered, that it should not be according to the gospel doctrine. But inasmuch as many brethren are in such a position the council is to have patience with them, until they can get through with it, yet so as not to break the bread of communion with them. Since, however, an executorship is very difficult for brethren, it was deemed necessary to adopt measures to obviate or lessen the difficulties. And inasmuch as every parent (or other person of sound mind) has a right to make a will according to his own pleasure, without being interfered with by the authorities, to divide and distribute his property, and also to select his executors, and to order them what they are to do, and how to do it (the testator may insert in his will the following clause), viz.: "I nominate and appoint A. B. to be sole executor of my estate, to settle, pay off, and collect, etc., as far as the rules of our church and the gospel will admit of," etc.

Art. 3. How far brethren have liberty to commune with men who do not strictly adhere to the truth, was considerd in council, thus: That it is very dangerous to commune with such people as do not hold entirely the doctrine of Christ, since the apostle says, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not in your house, neither bid him God-speed" (II. John, 10); and the counsel is, to give them no liberty to speak in our meetings.

Art. 4. How far a brother is at liberty in giving testimony, to speak the truth before the higher powers, inasmuch as different forms are presented to brethren? Considered, that a brother by no means should take the liberty to lift up his hand, but should obey simply the counsel of the gospel, saying yea , if it is yea, and nay, if it is nay; "for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.'

Art. 5. Whether brethren may have distilleries or not? It was considered to leave it by what was concluded some thirty years ago, that no brother would be allowed to have a distillery, or to distill ardent spirits.

Art. 6. Whether members (persons) might be received into the church, who have been but once immersed (without baptizing them in the manner we believe it ought to be done according to the gospel)? It was considered, that a threefold immersion is the true baptism; but if such persons would be content with their baptism, and yet acknowledge the Brethren's order as right, we would leave it over to them, and receive them with the laying on of hands and prayer.

Art. 7. What is to be done when a member commits a fault which is not between brother and brother, but publicly, against the gospel? Considered, that such a member (provided it is no crime, such as stated in I. Cor. 5) should always make acknowledgment before the church.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1822.

Article 1. Whether a brother might be set forward to baptize and break bread who does not wear his beard; it was considered, that according to the image of God (in which man was created), and according to the image of Christ, we ought to (leave our beard undisturbed or) wear our beard (at least in part), and that no brother should be

so far advanced who could not deny himself in this matter.

Art. 2. Whether a brother might serve in a worldly office or as a juryman, was considered, that no follower of Jesus can serve in such, and if he could get relieved with money (by paying a fine), he should not serve herein

Art. 3. Whether there should be something of the supper on the table at *feet-washing*, it was the unanimous agreement in the council of the great meeting that it should not be.

Art. 4. Whether it is right for a brother to take the benefit of the law, was considered, that when a brother is so imprudent that he falls under the power of law, he is not to have privilege to take the benefit of the law, but to seek counsel from the church. Yet it would be always best to seek counsel before a member comes so far.

Art. 5. When a member is put in avoidance, how far is his companion in wedlock to be held as a member? It was considered, that she may be held as a member, yet so as not to break the bread of communion.

Art. 6. How far should a brother keep house without counseling the church, or members without counseling the housekeeper? It was considered, that the brother who is housekeeper should always act in concert with the church, especially with his co-laborers in the church, and just so his co-laborers should always counsel with their elder brother, and a private brother should not undertake to teach or serve until the church calls him to it.

Art. 7. Concerning the abuse of tobacco. This has been before the meeting already before this, and was always considered a shamefully bad habit (*German*, *Untugend*)—and every thing bad, says the apostle, is sin, and sin defileth the body; and another apostle says, that your bodies, together with soul and spirit, shall be holy.

Art. 8. How it is considered, when members will not heed the counsel of love of the brethren, with regard to conforming to the world in clothing, etc. It was consid-

ered, for the third time in the great council, that when a member has been admonished in love once and again, we would not break bread with such. But at this meeting it has been considered, that when they will not receive counsel in love, we could not hold such member in full fellowship according to the gospel. Also such who permit those high fashions in their children who are yet under their control, and especially the bishops and ministers in the church should be examples of the flock.

ART. 9. With regard to distilleries (held or carried on) by members of the church, it was again testified that it could not be permitted.

ART. 10. How it is viewed when a brother assigns his property to another, with a view to defraud his neighbors (creditors). It is considered, that we can not hold them in fellowship.

ART. 11. Whether we might have two tables at love-feast, and also at other meetings; that is, whether members might prepare something warm for the old brethren, and also elderly and weakly members, besides what is served up for all in general—was considered, that members should be at perfect liberty to show their love toward their old brethren or weakly members, to set before them what they like; yet we would counsel in love to be careful that no bad distinction is made, so that friends and well-wishers are preferred to those that are weakly.

ART. 12. Whether it be right for a follower of Jesus to take interest, was considered, that neither the law nor the gospel gives us such privilege, and that it should not be among the membership.

ART. 13. How shall the church conduct itself toward those members that have been separated from the church? Considered, first, when a member is separated from the church as far as from the kiss, breaking of bread, and church council, such ought to be diligently exhorted according to the evidence of the apostle, but could not be

called brother. But when such would not receive the admonition of love, and should fall into more grievous sins, the church has to put them in avoidance, and have no company with them, according to the word of the apostle.

ART. 14. Concerning breaking up in the morning after love-feast, it was considered that members and their children who stay till morning, should not separate and leave until prayer and thanksgiving to God is made.

ART. 15. Whether a brother may take the liberty to go on the muster ground or take part in the festivities of Independence-day? Considered that no brother should take the liberty to go to such places.

ART. 16. When a member is put in avoidance, how far is his companion in wedlock to be held as a member? It was considered that she may be held as a member, yet so as not to break the bread of communion.

ART. 17. With regard to persons who live in adultery, it was considered that they could not be received into the church as long as they live in such condition.

ART. 18. Concerning the form or proposing oaths in order to save one's conscience for the gospel's sake, whether we could answer with yea such a form, "And this you do under the pains and penalties of perjury?" It was considered, if a brother were grieved herein, let him counsel whether there was no other form for us.

ART. 19. Concerning the form or manner of swearing oaths to save our consciences for the gospel's sake, whether we could answer with yea such a form, viz.: "And this you do under the pains and penalties of perjury?" It has been considered, that if a brother were oppressed or troubled herein, let him consider or seek counsel, whether there is no other form for us.

ART. 20. At the yearly meeting in Ohio, 1822, the question was presented, whether such as were not members could be present in our church councils, and the answer was: "Considered, as it was at all times considered, that it could not be allowed."

ART. 21. If a brother has a vendue, and gives freely strong drink, how is it considered? It was considered, that no brother should give strong drink at the sale of his property.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1825.

ARTCLE 1. Whether a brother may keep and sell strong drink, has been considered thus: because so often disorder is caused by strong drink, it is improper for a brother to sell it, and should not be at all suffered.

ART. 2. Whether a brother may take a mortgage or judgment bond of another brother, was considered, that brethren should be as careful of the interest of their neighbor as of their own, and not be selfish; and inasmuch to take bail for large sums is deemed wrong, it is not improper to secure a debt by mortgage or judgment.

ART. Concerning separation or excommunication, being viewed of unequal degrees. It was considered, that according to apostolic doctrine, such having committed gross or vicious sins, must be put entirely in avoidance, while less transgressions only precluded from the kiss, brotherly counsel, and the breaking of bread.

ART. 4. Whether a brother may teach singing-schools, was considered, that the musical schools, as they are generally conducted, have nothing to do with the service of God, and that a brother should teach none.

ART. 5. Whether a brother minister that involves himself in debts, and assigns his property to his children, could serve in the ministry of the word, was considered, that when the creditors should be defrauded thereby, he should give himself over to the (judgment of the) church, and without doubt ought not to serve (in the office of a minister).

Art. 6. Concerning a brother holding the office of justice of the peace, has been twice before the big meeting, and was always considered that it was not at all consistent with the gospel; but as something more definite is requested, the counsel is now, if such an one has been admonished already before to give up that office, and is once and again admonished (in the name of the church) to do so, and will not give it up, such an one we could not hold as a brother.

Art. 7. At the yearly meeting in Morrison's Cove, 1825, the question was presented, "In case members commit a public fault for which an acknowledgment is required, should it be made publicly, or only before the church? It was considered, in case the transgression was made without the church, and is deemed by the world a fault, and the transgressor should feel in himself urged to it (to make a public confession), in such case it might be good; but if it should be something that is not deemed a transgression by the world, and the conviction were not truly born from within, or from the heart, then it would be no light before the world, and it would be better done before the membership.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1827.

Article 1. About the ordinance of anointing the sick, the manner of proceeding has ever been, first to sing a few verses, and with a united prayer to turn to God. Then (there should always be two brethren) the one reaches forth his hand and the other poureth the oil on it, and the first puts the same on the head of the sick, and says the words, which the Apostle James teaches (chap. v. 14), "Thou art anointed in the name of the Lord," and thus three times, but the words only once said. Then both brethren lay their hands upon the head of the sick, and pray over him,

For it is not considered to be intended only an inward unction, but an outward anointing, whereof the apostle speaks, as mentioned before

ART. 2. About the avoidance and restoration of members. When a member, on account of crimes committed, must be separated and put in avoidance, and should afterward become reformed in life and conduct, and apply for restoration or for release from the avoidance, and the church could not yet feel satisfied to restore such entirely, they might be released; and should such fall again into crime, we would have a right to put them again into avoidance.

ART. 3. Concerning receiving persons who have been baptized in the proper manner by other denominations. Considered, that those who have been received before with the laying on of hands (and prayer), we receive with hand and kiss; and those on whom the laying on of hands had not been observed, we should receive by the laying on of hands, etc., etc.

ART. 4. Concerning receiving sick persons who can not be baptized on account of their sickness and weakness, was considered, that they might be received, and if they should die, they might die as members, but if they should live and be well again, they should and would be baptized.

ART. 5. Whether a brother holding an office in the church may distill ardent spirits, was considered, and concluded that it is not becoming for any brother to do so, much less for a brother in office.

ART. 6. Whether there should be no other meat but mutton at the supper was generally considered as most agreeable (to our feelings "gemuthlichste") to take mutton, as it has been always customary with the ancient brethren, yet to make no law herein, and to bear with one another.

ART. 7. With regard to selling bonds, it was considered, that none should be sold by which poor people might be oppressed; but since circumstances are so different, the church should be counseled (asked for counsel in any case).

Art. 8. How is it considered to lay carpets in (our) houses? It was considered that it belongs to the grandeur (highness) of this world, and that it will not become a follower of Jesus to garnish his house in this manner, but rather that he should adorn his house as may be consistent with lowliness.

Art. 9. Concerning taking pay for solemnizing marriages and preaching funeral sermons. It was unanimously considered, that it should not be among brethren.

Art. 10. Whether we may be allowed to hold infares? Considered, that it (such things) belongs to pride, extravagance, and vanity, and should not be among members.

Art. 11. How it is considered, if a brother keeps a brewery, and makes strong beer? Considered, though it could not be directly forbidden to a brother, but ought to be left to his own conscience, and (yet we wish) to advise him that the safest way would be, not to carry on such a business, from which may arise so many and great disorders.

Art. 12. Concerning members who engage in the raising of tobacco? Considered, that members should have nothing to do with such things, by which so much mischief is done, and so many men (and women too) are led captive, as is the case with tabacco.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1828.

Article 1. Whether a brother can belong to the Freemasons and still be a brother (in the church)? Considered, that it can not be.

Art. 2. Whether we may conform ourselves to the world with unnecessary things on our carriages? Considered, that it can not be. (See foregoing note.)

Art. 3. Whether brethren may go to the elections? It is the opinion of most of the brethren that we should keep ourselves free (clear) of them.

ART. 4. Whether we may do labor on Sunday, it was deemed good to refrain from it.

ART. 5. Whether a member might be anointed more than once, was considered and decided, that it may be done on request of the sick person.

ART. 6. Whether a person may be received into the church, having been immersed but once? It is the counsel to be better that they should be baptized again in the true order.

ART. 7. Whether we had a right to cause a candidate for baptism to make a vow? It was considered, that it is according to the gospel to receive them in the order of the Brethren as usual.

ART. 8. Whether the holy kiss should be observed at feet-washing and the breaking of bread? Considered, that it is right and proper.

ART. 9. Whether the holy kiss should have a place at feet-washing (between those who serve and those who are served); and at (before) the breaking of bread? Considered, that it should be. (The new commandment (John XIII. 34, 35) brings it very near to both ordinances, and a *love-feast* without this token of love would scarcely deserve the name.

ART. 10. Whether we might have small love-feasts?

ART. 11. Whether brethren may have carpets in their houses, was considered, that it can not and should not be, because it leads to elevation (pride).

ART. 12. Whether brethren may have distilleries was considered, and concluded that it should not be, nor by their children, as far as the authority of the parents extends; and if such brother will not take (or obey) the advice, we could not commune nor have fellowship with him. Also, to sell grain to distilleries (especially) when grain is scarce, should indeed not be.

ART. 13. Whether, if a member sees another member commit sin publicly against truth, the first is in duty bound

to speak privately to the failing member, or (at once to) present the case to one of the leading brethren? Considered (whether to do the first), it is as a member may choose but to do the latter remains his duty, inasmuch as public sins can not be atoned for between member and member.

Art. 14. Whether we may build meeting-houses? Considered, to leave it over to every church to do as they deem good.

Art. 15. Whether we might hold small (private, not publicly announced) love-feasts? Considered, in cases where there are but few members (or where a member is on a sick bed, desirous to partake once more), provided that one ordained brother would be present, and that every thing would be done at the right time and in proper order, there could be no objection at all, and it would not be contrary to the (word of) truth; yet care should be taken that it may not cause grief (pressure) or loss of affection.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1830.

Article 1. Whether a minister may break the bread of communion and communicate the cup of thanksgiving to a sick person who is not a member? Considered, as contrary to our faith and conscience, and as more advisable to point or direct the sick to Christ and inward communion. Another question presented and answered, that sick persons, who wish to be baptized, but feel too weak, might be received under the promise, that if restored to health they would submit to the command and ordinance of Christ, and in case of their death they may find comfort in the reflection that God sees their good intentions, and may accept them for the deed.

ART. 2. Whether a brother may take a wife who has already a husband, but is deserted and set free by him? This has long since been considered that it can not be according to the word and gospel.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1831.

ARTICLE 1. Whether it was considered advisable for a member to have his son educated in a college? Considered not advisable, inasmuch as experience has taught that such very seldom will come back afterward to the humble ways of the Lord.

ART. 2. Whether it could be approved of when the brotherly kiss is so often omitted, even at meetings and lovefeasts? Considered, no, not at all.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1832.

ARTICLE 1. How is it considered if a brother serves on a grand jury, and bears testimony against a brother, by which the latter is caused to suffer costs, and the testimony is not given from necessity or duty, but from want of love? Considered, that serving on juries was ever deemed improper for brethren; but in this special case the church where it occurred, and who should know and weigh all the circumstances, should judge according to the law of Christ, according to the testimony.

ART. 2. Whether such may participate in the Lord's Supper who are not members, if there is room? Considered, to leave it to the churches, when there is such room.

ART. 3. Whether it would be approved, when brethren engage in storekeeping and selling of strong drinks?

Considered, the first might be allowed in cases of necessity, where a brother has no other way to make a living, but the latter in no case whatever.

Art. 4. Concerning the omitting of the holy kiss among members. Considered, that it should not be, and that it is an evidence of a want of love.

Art. 5. How to do when a brother is indebted to another, and becomes insolvent? Answer. The church should deal with him according to the circumstances or degrees of aggravation, according to the word.

Art. 6. How is it considered concerning persons who wish to be received, and had already been immersed but once by other Baptists? Considered, that some have been received without baptism, as we believe it ought to be performed, and they afterward came of their own accord to receive the baptism according to the word.

Art. 7. Whether at a council concerning candidates for baptism, their nearest friends should withdraw? Decided as before.

Art. 8. Change of the time of yearly meeting. Meeting to commence on Pentecost, with public meeting and love-feast. Monday and Tuesday, council meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1833.

Article 1. Whether we are to immerse at baptism once or thrice? It was considered, that we can not deem any other baptism as valid, according to the word of God, but a threefold immersion.

Art. 2. Whether there is any difference in using the law for our own benefit or only as executors or administrators? Considered, there is none in reality; it is wrong for ourselves, it is wrong if we do it for others.

ART. 3. Whether a brother who was chosen to the (ministry of the) word in one church, and moves into another with a good testimony, can be relieved from his office (or rather literally put back from it)? It was always considered, when a ministering brother moves out of the church which chose him, he moves out of his office—that is, before he is fully ordained; and that it was at the option of the church into which he moves to receive him with his office or not. If his life and conduct inspire love and confidence, it will not be long before he may be called to exercise his ministry again. Have patience!

ART. 4. Whether a person may be admitted to our (communion or) breaking of bread, who is not baptized according to gospel (as we understand it)? Considered, no.

ART. 5. Whether the supper must be on the table at feet-washing? (No; there is no such command in the gospel; and if the example of Christ is urged, it is also a mooted, doubtful question on this point. It must be recollected that the translators of our modern version of the New Testament did not believe or practice feet-washing, or know any thing about the real Lord's Supper, calling the communion of bread and wine the Lord's Supper. We all believe that John XIII. 2 is wrongly translated by saying, "Supper being ended" before feet-washing is mentioned, while it is evident, from verses 26–30, that supper was not ended then).

ART. 6. Whether the supper must be on the table at *feet-washing?* Answered as before.

ART. 7. Whether a member has a right to appeal to the yearly meeting, when put back by the council of his church? The answer, not recorded, was similar to the following:

ART. 8. About the making and using of strong drink, a strong testimony was made at this meeting against it.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1834.

Article 1. How it is considered to sing at or during the breaking of bread? Considered, as not proper, but at the distribution of the cup very proper. It was also remarked, that there should be no drinking without necessity while the supper is served, until all is served up, and a blessing asked of God, because we are to "tarry for one another."

Art. 2. Whether we may work on Sunday, such as sawing (on sawmills,) shooting, moving, etc. It was considered, that it should not be by any means, but that we ought to spend the Sunday in stillness, and in the fear of God, in order to be offensive to no one.

Art. 3. Whether we may take interest from a brother? Considered somewhat differently, but our (charity) moderation should be known, and we should be willing to lend to the poor without interest.

Art. 4. Whether we could receive into our church a person that has been immersed once backward, without baptizing him again? Considered, that though it has been done before, still we believe that the best and safest way is to baptize them right, and according to the proper order (as we believe), and that hereafter it should not be done otherwise.

Art. 5. How it is considered, when a member who was received after having been baptized with only one immersion backward, without receiving baptism according to our order, moves into another church, and there is required to be baptized? Answer in foregoing article 4.

Art. 6. Concerning a certain brother's certificate; whether a certificate could be given to a brother minister who moves away from his church without paying his debts? Special advice given, but not noted.

Art. 7. How is it viewed when a ministering brother, as executor or administrator of an estate, is compelled to use the law? Considered, he should do nothing without the counsel of the church.

ART. 8. Concerning the office of supervisor and other worldly offices, was considered, that brethren should keep themselves clear of them as much as possible.

ART. 9. Concerning high and fashionable clothing, etc., and conformity to the world, it was considered a great evil as heretofore, which is not to be tolerated in the church.

ART. 10. How it is considered when a brother, not yet ordained, should administer the communion in presence of ordained brethren? (If the ordained brethren desire him to do so, there can be no objection; on the contrary, it is desirable for young hands in any work to have more experienced friends near to advise or assist.)

ART. 11. Whether a brother can serve on a jury, where a man is tried for his life (as a murderer)? Considered, no, it can not be at all.

ART. 12. If a brother who is a minister should transgress so that the church has to set him back, and if he is afterwards received again upon his acknowledgment, whether he is to be received with or without his office? Considered, that depends upon the church, and also upon the nature of his transgression.

ART. 13. Concerning a sister's preaching. Not approved of; considering such sister being in danger, not only exposing her own state of grace to temptation, but also causing temptations, discord, and disputes among other members.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1835.

ARTICLE 1. How it is viewed to receive colored people into our church? Considered, to make no difference on account of color.

ART. 2. Concerning the trouble between Bro. M. L. and the church, L. was earnestly admonished by the old breth-

ren to amend his ways; not to creep into houses in order to bring members into confusion and cause division in the church, inasmuch as they (the old brethren) saw and understood what manner of spirit was in him. For if he should come so far as to speak in a traducing and railing spirit against the church, he would have to be put in avoidance.

ART. 3. Concerning taking interest. Considered not allowed by the gospel, and brethren should beware of usury (unlawful interest) especially.

ART. 4. How it is considered when brethren go with their children to shows? Considered, it should not be.

ART. 5. How it is viewed to elect brethren for the ministry by lot? Considered, to abide the manner of holding a choice hitherto observed.

ART. 6. Concerning the commencement of Yearly Meetings on Saturday, or according to the ancient order. No change made at this time. (See further, "*Annual Meetings.*)"

ART. 7. How it is considered when brethren go to muster and drill. Considered, that it is contrary to our baptismal vow, contrary to the word of God, and contrary to the professed principle of the church, and can by no means be permitted or tolerated.

ART. 8. How is it considered, if ministers move into churches where there is no ordained elder, whether they can be received where no bishop is present? No; there ought to be one or more bishops invited for the occasion, or the matter postponed to another time. Meanwhile, those new comers may serve in their office as guests.

ART. 9. How it is considered to sell grain to distilleries? Should not be, except in case of necessity.

ART. 10. How it is considered when brethren keep tavern? Considered, as entirely unbecoming for brethren.

ART. 11. What is the order to receive applicants for baptism? It is necessary that there should be self-knowledge, repentance, and faith, together with scriptural instruction, and then that it may be done with the counsel of the church.

ART. 12. How it is considered to receive colored persons into the church? (The object of the question was not whether they should be received at all, but whether they could or must be received or treated altogether like white members). It was considered, that inasmuch as the gospel is to be preached to all nations and races, and if they come as repentant sinners, believing in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and apply for baptism, we could not consistently refuse them. But inasmuch we receive our fellow members with the holy kiss, and there is a repugnance in some of our white members to salute colored persons in this manner, the colored members should bear with that weakness, and not offer the kiss to such weak members until they become stronger, and make the first offer, etc. Otherwise, if they (the colored members) prove faithful, they should be considered on an equality of full membership.

ART. 13. How it is considered when brethren go with their children to shows? Considered, it should not be.

ART. 14. Concerning the commencement of yearly meetings on Saturday, or according to the ancient order. No change made at this time.

ART. 15. What is the duty of a visiting brother? First, as visiting brethren and overseers of the poor in the church, they have to assist and attend to the yearly general visit from house to house; and it is necessary, and their duty, when the church is divided into different visit districts, to take the lead in the visit as well as that of the ministers; and in case the ministers could not assist on account of sickness, it is the duty of the deacons to carry out the visit with other brethren, and to bring before the minister and the church what they have found. Further, when any thing of importance is to be investigated in the church, the ministers have the right to request them (the deacons) to accompany them, or if the case is not of special importance, to send them (the deacons) to investigate the matter and bring it before the ministry. Further, it is their duty, in-

asmuch as they have been elected to be overseers of the poor, to visit the sick, especially if they are poor, who may be in distress by reason of sickness or other causes, to examine their case, and to report to the ministry, and, if necessary, the ministers to hold a council with the church what is further to be done. When money or grain is contributed in the church for the poor in the church, it is their duty to keep a regular book account of what they receive and what they lay out for the poor or otherwise for the church, so that they are able at times to render an account with and to the church. Upon the whole, all that may occur in the church and is to be investigated, is committed to their care, and if they hear of any thing, to bring it before the ministers, to counsel whether it is to be examined, and to see it done if found necessary.

Further, it is their calling to assist the ministers at meeting, by reading the Scriptures, by using freedom in prayer, and to bear testimony to what was spoken; and if it should happen that no minister (of the word) could come to meeting, it is their duty to lead the worship by singing, prayer, and reading the Scriptures, and if they feel so, to exhort to the edification of the congregation; yet it was the counsel of the old brethren that it is not their calling to rise on their feet in order to exhort; and thus to conclude the meeting in the usual order, and to make the ordinary appointments for meeting. Again, when a minister is called to hold meetings in another district, and he requests the visiting brethren to give him company and assistance, it is their duty to assist, and one or the other to go with him.

Further, it is their duty to serve at tables; when a love-feast is held, to make the necessary preparations, to call as many other brethren as they need to assist, and at the time of the love-feast to see to it that the sisters can get all things ready at the proper time, and themselves setting the tables, and so in all things see to it that everything is done decently and in order.

Art. 16. Concerning going to elections and serving as jurymen. It was considered in both cases, that brethren should hold themselves loose as much as possible, or entirely, which is best. Particularly, no brother should take part in electioneering at an election, which is deemed very hurtful, and should not be among brethren, etc.

Art. 17. Concerning serving on juries at trials for life or death? Answered as before.

Art. 18. How is it viewed for brethren to sell grain to distillers? Considered, that it should not be, especially if grain is scarce and high in price. Besides, it was mentioned of the abuse and harm which comes from what is made by the distiller, and that brethren should take no part in it, and by no means use distilled liquors for a common beverage, nor offer it to those that work for them.

Art. 19. How is it considered, when members wash the feet or salute with the holy kiss those who are not members of the church? Considered, we should not do so, if it gives offense.

Art. 20. How it it is considered, when brethren keep tavern? Considered, as entirely unbecoming for brethren.

Art. 21. What is the order to receive applicants for baptism? It is necessary that there should be self-knowledge, repentance and faith, together with scriptural instruction, and then that it may be done with the counsel of the church.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1836.

Article 1. Whether a brother would have a right to take such money, which he had acquired as a soldier by war? Considered in union, that it can not be, acccording to the doctrine of Jesus.

Art. 2. Whether a brother or sister could be allowed to

sell strong drink? Considered, that it should absolutely not be.

Art. 3. What is to be done with a brother who professes and claims to be urged by the spirit of God to preach the gospel, and who is not chosen by the church for it? He is counseled and allowed, after the elect brethren have spoken, to make known by exhortation if there is any thing on his mind; he may also use liberty in public prayer, when necessary, or in reading the Scriptures, provided he is acceptable by the church.

Art. 4. How is it deemed best at the yearly meeting, whether first to hold council, or first public meeting and communion? It was considered as expedient, to commence on Lord's day with public meeting, and in the evening to break the bread of communion, and afterward to hold council.

Art. 5. When a bishop is old and too feeble to serve in his office fully as he ought, whether (the church) have a right to select another? The counsel is, to go to counsel with the nearest churches, and if looking on the proposition favorably, and the old bishop and his church would be of one mind, then it might be done.

Art. 6. What should be the name of our fraternity, when a title for a meeting-house is made and recorded in the public offices? Unanimously concluded to call ourselves the Fraternity of German Baptists.

Art. 7. Concerning work or moving on Sunday, it was considered improper to do so.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1837.

At an annual meeting held in Rockingham County, Virginia, at the meeting-house near Bro. John Kline, on Linwell's Creek, the 15th of May, 1837, the following points have been presented to the council of the old brethren, and have been considered in the fear of the Lord:

ARTICLE 1. How it is considered, if a member desires to be no more with the church, and yet has committed no other offense? Since the circumstances are so different, the advice is also different. If a member desires to be off, and doth commit no other offense, we could have patience somewhat longer with such a member than if a member should speak contemptuously of the church; Then the church can judge best how soon to let it withdraw, and to place it according to its desire; yet there ought to be employed all possible diligence to bring back to the flock such souls. But if they will not hear, there would be just cause to put them as they desire.

ART. 2. How it is viewed, if a member is accused of a crime only on testimony from out of the church? Whether it would be right to take a member into judgment (before the church) on such a testimony? The counsel is to make strict investigation, and if there should be nothing found, and the member continued to deny the charge, it could not be judged on testimony out of the church alone.

ART. 3. How it is considered, to make a better arrangement in holding annual meetings according to the pattern of the apostles? (Acts xv.) The unanimous counsel of this meeting and desire of the old brethren is, to follow the track of the apostles as closely as possible. Therefore the council-meeting ought to consist of the elders and all the members of that church which receives the meeting, and of such teachers, ministers, or (private) members, who may be sent as delegates from the other churches. It is considered necessary that every church, or, where the distance is

too great, several churches together, should send two, three, or more delegates to the annual meeting. The yearly meeting is to take place as heretofore on Pentecost, or Whitsuntide, and the council-meeting to be held on Friday and Saturday before, to which end the delegates ought to arrive in the neighborhood on Thursday evening. The public meeting begins on Sunday, when a love-feast will be held, and the church is at liberty to invite thereto also neighboring churches as usual. The proceedings of the council-meeting should be immediately recorded in writing, and as much as possible communicated to all the churches.

Art. 4. How it is considered, to administer the anointing of the sick, or to hold an election, without an ordained brother (elder) being present? It is the advice, that the anointing of the sick should not be administered without an ordained brother, except in a case of necessity, that no such is to be had; for the word says: Call for the elders of the church. As to holding elections, it is considered that no election ought to be held without the presence of (two or) at least one ordained brother.

Art. 5. If a brother is at liberty to serve as cryer or clerk at public vendues? It is the counsel of the meeting, that no brother should take the liberty to cry at vendues, because it is unbecoming for a brother so to serve. As to the clerkship at vendues, it could not be considered quite so unbecoming, yet so that brethren ought to refrain from such things as much as possible.

Art. 6. Whether the sense of the words of the Savior (Matt. xviii), "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican," is the same as the sense of the apostle, when he says (I. Cor. v.), "Have no company with him," etc. It is understood by the meeting almost unanimously, that the expression of the Savior, "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican," excludes a member only so far as from the church-council, from the kiss and the breaking of bread; but that it is the sense of the apostle, when

he speaks of the vicious, "Have no company with him," and after noticing the vices adds yet, "with such a one (you ought) no not to eat," that we ought to avoid such a one altogether according to the sense of the word.

ART. 7. How it is considered if members go to the public election and vote, or even previously already electioneer for the candidates of office? It is the advice of the old brethren to keep ourselves also in this respect as free as possible, and rather not go to the election. As regards electioneering, it is the sense of the brethren that no brother ought to interfere so far with the offices and government of this world, according to the word.

ART. 8. When persons desire, to be received through baptism into the church, if it be necessary, to instruct them before baptism of the taking of oaths, going to war, and the like, that according to our view it is forbidden in the gospel? The advice is, that such persons ought, if possible, to be visited before their baptism, and by all means to be previously instructed of the following points, viz.: Of the taking of oaths, going to war and to muster, to use the power of the law contrary to the gospel, and to conform to the fashions of this world in apparel and the like; and that they ought to state before their reception their willingness to refrain from all such things.

ART. 9. How it is considered if members take more than lawful interest? Considered, that it ought to be by no means; and if a brother should do so, he ought to be visited, and if he would not take advice, we could not be satisfied with him.

ART. 10. How it is considered if a brother buys and keeps slaves, and sells them also again? Considered, that it could in no wise be justified in a brother, according to the gospel.

ART. 11. How it is considered when a brother keeps a brewry, and makes strong beer? Considered, that it could not be directly forbidden to a brother, but ought to be left to his own conscience, and to advise him that the safest

way would be not to carry on such a business, from which may arise so many and great disorders.

Art. 12. How it is viewed to receive persons into the church without baptism, in case of sickness and bodily infirmity? Considered, that we have no express word for it, and that it would be more advisable and more safe to direct them to the mercy of God in Christ. Yet we would in certain singular cases not set bounds, but advise all teachers to be careful to do nothing without the counsel of their fellow laborers, and, if it be possible, of their church.

In conclusion, the brethren united to hold their next yearly meeting with the brethren in the neighborhood of Hagerstown, Maryland, on Pentecost, 1838.

Signed by the elders present—Daniel Gerber, John Flohry, David Pfautz, Daniel Arnold, Joseph Gerber, Christ. Johnson, John Price, George Hoke, Abraham Gerber, Benj. Bowman, Abraham Yandt, Daniel Reichard.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1833.

At the yearly meeting, held in Washington County, Maryland, on the 1st and 2d of June, Anno Salutis 1838, the following queries were laid before the council of the—in God beloved—brethren, and considered in the fear of God:

Article 1. Whether a congregation has the right, according to the gospel, to put a member in avoidance or not? Considered, that the old brethren always have thought it right, and still think it right, according to the gospel, to put members in avoidance in accordance with the word of the apostle. I. Cor. v. 9–11.

Art. 2. Whether it is considered proper to hold singing-schools in our meeting-houses? Chiefly considered, that meeting-houses are no proper places for holding singing-schools therein.

ART. 3. Whether it is proper for a member to build distilleries, or to distill ardent spirits? Considered, as it has been considered these many years, that it ought not to be.

ART. 4. Whether a common brother has the right to go out, to appoint or let others appoint meetings for himself, or generally to teach publicly without the counsel of the church? Considered, that a brother who is not intrusted with the office, is not justified so to do. James III. 1.

ART. 5. Whether a member has a right to appoint a meeting for a teacher who is not in our connection? Considered, that it ought not to be according to the exhortation of the apostle. II. John v. 10.

ART. 6. Whether it be right to receive again as a private member a brother that was a teacher, and had been put back, without intrusting him again with the office? Considered, that a congregation has a right to do in such a case as it seemeth good to them.

ART. 7. Whether a teacher has the right to remove out of the church without the counsel of the same? Considered, that it is right and good that a brother, in such an important undertaking should seek the counsel of his church.

ART. 8. Whether in case a member falls into the judgment of the church, the nearest relations should withdraw while the counsel is taken? It has always been considered best to let such relations withdraw

ART. 9. Whether we have the right to appoint deacons without laying hands on them, according to the example of the apostles? Acts VI. 6. Considered and resolved, to postpone the further consideration of this query to the next annual meeting.

ART. 10. Whether it be right for members to take part in Sunday-schools, class-meetings, and the like? Considered most advisable to take no part in such like things.

ART. 11. How it is considered when members go to public shows, and even take their children along? Unani-

mously considered, that members ought to avoid such places, and to warn their children therefrom.

Art. 12. Whether in case that brethren who are called to some ministry move from one church into another, are received with their office by the church to which they have removed, whether the sisters, their wives, ought to be received with them, as in the case of an election? Considered, that it would be good to receive the sisters also with them.

Art. 13. Whether persons that have been babtized formerly elsewhere with a threefold immersion, could be received among us as members without baptism or not? Considered almost unanimously, that when such persons are satisfied with their baptism, having been performed in the right manner, they may be received as members without baptism, yet with stating to them the order (rules, principles) of the brethren, and the laying on of hands. If they should, however, desire baptism, it might be granted to their satisfaction.

Lastly it was resolved to hold the next annual meeting, God willing, by request, with our beloved brethren at Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1839, yet so that the elders and delegated brethren ought to arrive in the neighborhood, as at this time, on Thursday before.

Signed by the elders present—Daniel Gerber, David Pfoutz, George Hoke, John Gerber, Jacob Holsinger, David Engler, sen., Abraham Yandt John Funk, John Brower, Christ. Johnson, Jacob Pfoutz, Daniel Arnold, Christ. Long, John Price, John Royer, Lorenz Etter, John Farny, John Beeghly.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1839.

ARTICLE 1. Whether a brother could serve in the office of a constable? No. (See above, yearly meeting 1812.)

ART. 2. How the supper should be held? Considered, as it was always held.

ART. 3. What is to be done with a brother who wants to preach, and forces him into it without or contrary to the counsel of the church? Considered, that such a brother, having been admonished once and again, can not be held as a member in full fellowship, if he is disobedient.

ART. 4. Whether a brother may give his house for holding a (political) election in it? The answer was no; it should not be.

ART. 5. Whether a brother may be intemperate with strong drink or tobacco? No.

ART. 6. With regard to the laying on of hands on deacons, it was concluded to leave it as heretofore. (See also yearly meetings, 1844, 1; 1845, 11; 1846, 3; Tenn. 6.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1840.

Letter of the Yearly Meeting of the Ancient Brethren, held in Morrison's Cove, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, June 5–8, 1840, *to all their united churches and members:*

May the blood of the New Testament in the power of the everlasting Word, be mighty effectual in us all, that we may be and remain followers of Christ in the regeneration until the day of our redemption, when the hidden things of the heart will be revealed, to the great consolation and unspeakable joy of the loving and suffering children of God in Christ Jesus.

In this ardent desire of faith we send to all our in God beloved and in faith united churches and members, brothers and sisters, wheresoever they be, our heartfelt and joint love and greeting, saying with the Apostle Paul, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Since it hath pleased God to spare our lives, and to count us worthy once more to assemble at this yearly meeting, the design of which is to promote our union in love and concord of the spirit, to encourage one another to faithfulness and watchfulness in these last critical times, and to strengthen us mutually in the faith and obedience of the gospel, to warn of dangers, and to resist with united efforts every evil which threatens to break in, and especially in difficulties that may arise, on the request of our beloved brethren, to give our simple advice. There have been at this time laid before us the following points and queries, which we have weighed with the word in the fear of the Lord, and according to the grace bestowed upon us, have answered the same:

Article 1. Whether it be agreeable to the gospel, as the brethren do, hold elections for teachers and deacons? Considered, that our mode to hold elections is according to the gospel, and that we do not know how to improve it.

Art. 2. How it is considered when poor members are left to the overseers of the poor in the township for maintenance? Considered, that the church to which such a member belongs ought to investigate the case, and to take care of her own poor according to the gospel.

Art. 3. In case one that was a brother, and now is held in avoidance, lives at a distance of several hundred miles from a brother to whom he is owing, and writes back to brethren he would be willing to pay if he knew how much; whether the latter would have liberty to write to the former how much he owed him? Considered, that brethren might state and send such accounts, as it was always permitted to

settle old accounts with such members, that are held in avoidance.

Art. 4. About the difference among the brethren in regard to avoidance—since, as it seems, some know or observe nothing at all of an avoidance; others take the liberty to eat with or to greet as brethren those that are put into avoidance, which with those who feel themselves in duty bound, according to the word, to observe entirely the avoidance, often times causes temptations and great oppression. Considered, that it is very much to be lamented that such a difference hath crept in by degrees among the brethren in such a highly important matter, and that it ought to be the ardent desire and the serious endeavor of all the brethren and members, and particularly of the elders and teachers, in observing this evangelic and apostolical ordinance again to come to a perfect unanimity, whereto

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Art. 5. How it is considered about the visiting of such persons who apply for baptism; whether they must be visited in all cases before baptism? Considered, that this is a good practice, and that every where if possible it ought to be introduced and observed, without making any limits in certain cases to make an exception; and where this practice is yet unknown, it would be proper to inform the members thereof, and through them those that wish to be received by baptism.

Art. 6. Whether a brother may take the liberty in a civil lawsuit as defendant to answer for himself or by an attorney, and in case he should consider himself wronged in the first instance, whether he is justified to appeal further? Considered, that a brother, if he is summoned before a magistrate, may state his case, but before he would go any further he ought to ask the counsel of the church, which will be agreeable with the gospel.

Art. 7. About the more and more increasing evil, that members conform so much to the world in building, house

furniture, raiment, etc., and even to have a string of bells upon their horses at sleighing? Considered, that all the brethren and members, and especially teachers, ought to oppose and labor against this growing evil, and to avoid the tinkling of bells as improper for brethren.

Art. 8. Whether we might hold meetings at the houses of members that are excluded (in the first degree, according to Matt. xviii.), or to visit them in the name of the church on their request? Considered, that when the excommunicated members appear to be penitent, and request visit and meeting of the brethren, it might be readily granted.

Art. 9. Whether it could be allowed for brethren to go to train (or muster) in the militia? Considered, that training or mustering is a preparation for war, and since we are inclined to peace and a defenseless state, it would in no wise be proper nor allowable for brethren to learn war. Is. ii. 4; Mic. iv. 3.

Art. 10. Whether a public fault could be settled and forgiven between brother and brother? Considered, that a publicly committed fault can only be settled before the church, and not between brother and brother, according to the word of the Lord.

Art. 11. What is to be done with a brother who is erecting a distillery, and makes and sells ardent spirits? Considered, that when such a brother has been admonished once and again, and will not be obedient to the counsel of the church, we could not break the bread of communion with him. Besides, it is the advice of the old brethren, to dissuade all the members from the common use of intoxicating drinks, particularly at buildings, hay-making and harvesting.

Art. 12. How it is considered, when teachers at the beginning of meetings exhort so long, and consume so much time with speaking before prayer? Considered that it would be more edifying to make the exhortation as brief

as possible, since the apostle teaches that first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, etc., be made. I. Tim. II. 1–4.

Art. 13. About receiving again members that had been excluded; in what manner it ought to take place? Considered, that it was hitherto not done the same way as the reception of newly-elected teachers or deacons, where the members do advance toward those elected, but that it was and is the mode of the brethren, the members to remain in their places, and the member to be received again to go from one to the other, and thus to be received, if a brother, by the brethren with hand and kiss, and by the sisters with the hand; and if a sister, by the brethren with the hand, and by the sisters with hand and kiss.

In conclusion, the brethren agreed to hold our next annual meeting on Pentecost, 1841, with our brethren in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Signed by Daniel Gerber, David Pfoutz, Daniel Arnold, Jacob Holsinger, Christian Long, George Hoke, John Price, Daniel Reichard, Abra. Yandt, Michel Dicky, Peter Kober, Isaac Shoemaker, Henry Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1841.

As it was customary among us from time immemorial, the old brethren assembled themselves this year again from East and West, and from North and South, in yearly meeting with Bro. William Miller, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where on the 28th and 29th of May, A. D. 1841, the following points were presented and taken into serious consideration:

Article 1. Whether it would be right and allowable, according to the gospel, for members to buy lottery-tickets? Considered, that as a species of gambling for gain's sake, whereby others must necessarily lose, it is wrong, and not allowable at all for a brother.

Art. 2. Whether the brethren practice feet-washing strictly according to the gospel? Considered, after much conversation and reflection, that feet-washing, as practiced hitherto by the brethren, is according to the word, and that the mode, as far as we could learn until now, could in no wise be improved.

Art. 3. Whether the brethren have a right to admit friends, who are not members, to sit down with us at the Lord's Supper, if there is room? Considered, that making a proper distinction between the supper and the communion of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, there could be no objection to admit friends to the supper, when there is room.

Art. 4. Whether it is proper for teachers to speak both German and English in meetings, when there are only a few English members, the majority of the church being German? Considered, that it is right, and our duty, to preach the gospel to every nation as far as we are able, yet so that in such a case not too much time ought to be taken up in English.

Art. 5. Whether a brother, consistently with the gospel, can take the benefit of the law for insolvent debtors? Considered, that there may be cases where the involving at first and the consequences thereupon are not at all compatible with the gospel, and where the church could not hold such as brethren; and that there may be cases where a brother, by misfortune, may be brought to such extremity, and if he were honest in his declaration, his application for the benefit of the law might even be excusable. In all such cases, however, the church has to investigate the matter, and judge accordingly, and if the church is at a loss, to call in, as in other cases, the assistance of elders from other churches.

Art. 6. Whether members may be brought before the council of the church, and be judged for a crime only on testimony from without—i. e., from persons that are not members of the church? Considered, that when there is

some report abroad of a brother walking disorderly, or having committed a crime, it is the duty of the church to send some brethren to the place where the report has originated, to investigate the matter. If nothing be found establishing the charge, and the member denying the same after a close examination, nothing more can be done. If there should, however, some suspicion be created in the members by the general conduct of the accused, the church may advise such a member not to approach the Lord's table until the matter is cleared up to the satisfaction of the church. But to disown entirely a member on testimony only from without, was not considered right and just according to the gospel.

ART. 7. Whether members may be permitted to obtain and sell patent-rights for their own inventions? Considered, that it is not advisable for members to take out and sell patent-rights.

ART. 8. Whether a teacher has a right to break the bread of communion to a sick person that is not a member of the church? Considered, that a teacher has not any authority in the gospel to do so, but that he should direct such a soul to the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and to the terms and promises of the gospel.

ART. 9. Whether a deacon (visiting brother) may give testimony to what a teacher has said while there is one or more teachers present that have not spoken, and request him to speak? Considered, that he may, if requested.

ART. 10. Whether a follower of Jesus may attend political meetings? Considered, that it is not becoming at all for brethren who have renounced the world.

ART. 11. Whether it is becoming for a member of the church of Christ to act as juror in the courts of our country? Considered that it would be best not to serve at all even in civil, but by no means in criminal cases.

ART. 12. What is to be done with a brother or member who removes into another church without bringing a cer-

tificate of membership along, and who being asked for it is offended by the request? Considered, that as it has been decided often heretofore, it is requisite for members that remove from one church into another to bring a testimony or certificate along of their standing in the church from whence they came, and that they ought not to be offended at being asked for the same. Should they refuse still to procure a certificate, the church to which they came would have a right to ascertain their standing before receiving them to full membership.

Art. 13. Whether a brother or member could be judged consistently with the gospel without having a hearing before the church, with privilege to defend himself? Considered, that no brother ought to be brought before the council of the church for any accusation without having previous information thereof, and without having the privilege of being present at the hearing of the witnesses, and also of defending himself according to gospel.

Art. 14. Concerning the use of ardent spirits, it was considered that it is a great evil, leading to vice and crime, to destruction of peace and property, and to the ruin of body and soul, and that members of the church of Christ ought to refrain from the use of it, except as medicine.

Art. 15. In regard to the next yearly meeting, application having been made heretofore from Swatara Church, in this state, and this year from Mohiccon Church, in Ohio, and from Pipe Creek Church, in Maryland—no application being made this year from Swatara,—the brethren concluded to meet, God willing, in annual meeting next year, on Pentecost, 1842, with our brethren at Pipe Creek, in Maryland, in accommodation of the eastern churches, with the intention of meeting the year following, if the application is repeated, with our brethren in Ohio.

Signed by Daniel Gerber, David Pfoutz, Christian Long, Daniel Arnold, George Hoke, Abraham Yandt, John Hart, John Price, Daniel Reichard, Henry Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1842.

At the yearly meeting of the ancient brethren, commonly called German Baptists, held at the Beaver Dam meeting-house, in Frederick County, Maryland, 13th to 15th of May, A. D. 1842, the following queries were presented, and considered and answered in the fear of the Lord:

ARTICLE 1. Whether the sense of the words of our Savior (Matt. XVIII.), "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican," is the same with the expression of Paul the apostle, when he says, "Have no company with him." I. Cor. v. This same query had been before the yearly meeting in Virginia in the year 1837, and a similar one before the annual meeting in Morrison's Cove in the year 1840, and even in the year 1794 (almost fifty years ago) the brethren expressed their sense on the subject, which was read, and the brethren now assembled generally agreed to the then expressed views, desiring with our departed brethren that our dearly beloved brethren would seek to hold fast to the written word of truth, for we fear with them that whosoever will depart from it is in great danger to be deceived in these much confused times. Now he that attends strictly to the word will see plainly that in Matt. XVIII. quite another case is mentioned than in I. Cor. v. There the Savior speaks of sins and offenses which a brother or sister may commit against a fellow-member. Here the apostle treats of vices and crimes which may be committed against God and the truth. And as there is a difference in the sins, even so is also a difference in the discipline. Already, under the law, there were some sins unto death, where the sinner had to die without mercy under two or three witnesses. Heb. x. 28. But some sins were not unto death, and could be atoned for by offerings and sacrifices. Even so there is a difference in the discipline under the gospel, as we may plainly see from those passages before alluded to, viz., Matt. VIII. and I. Cor. v., if we examine

them more closely. Therefore the brethren have always considered, and we yet consider, that the divine sense requires to disown a member who will not be told unto when it has been overtaken in a fault, which might have been atoned for by an acknowledgment, for his refusing to acknowledge, only so far as from the church-council, from the breaking of bread, and from the kiss. But a member that has fallen into gross sins and vices should be dealt with according to the word of God, as expressed by the Apostle Paul, viz., "Not to keep company with such a one, no, not to eat."

Art. 2. Whether it will be to the edification of the church of God to hold protracted meetings, and to introduce mourning-benches, in imitation to the new measures adopted by different sects and denominations? The brethren generally considered, that it was advisable to be very cautious, and at all times to keep good order in accordance with the doctrine and example of the apostles, and not to introduce such innovations like mourning-benches, etc.

Art. 3. Whether our love-feasts could not be held more privately and oftener? The advice was to select such times and places as experience may teach to be most suitable for this purpose.

Art. 4. How it is considered if a brother or sister signs the pledge of total abstinence? Considered, that inasmuch as our churches have always been testifying against intemperance, and even against the free use, the making and selling of ardent spirits, it is not advisable for members to put their hands to the pledge, or to meddle with the proceeding and excitement of the world on this subject.

Art. 5. Whether the queries to be submitted to the yearly meeting should not be laid first before the individual church, and be sent with their consent? Considered, that queries in relation to a particular church ought to be brought in with the counsel of that church, but a brother should not be prevented thereby to present any question

that may occur unto him as important and necessary to be considered.

Art. 6. Whether it be proper for a brother who is elected to speak the word, to serve at arbitrations or on juries, etc.? Considered, as it has been often heretofore, that brethren would do best at all times, if it be avoidable, not to serve, except there is reason to hope that peace may be promoted thereby.

Art. 7. Whether it be right for a brother to deliver a lecture on temperance, if requested? Considered, as our commission is to preach the gospel, that we should do so, and inculcate temperance as well as other virtues; but to hold lectures on the subject of temperance exclusively was considered not to be advisable for a brother.

Art. 8. Whether a person who was married, and whose partner broke the marriage vow by fornication, may marry again according to the gospel, after obtaining a bill of divorce? Considered, that according to the word of God, Matt. v. 31, 32, xix. 3–10, Mark x. 2–12, Luke xvi. 18, and I. Cor. vii. 10, 11, 39, a person can not marry again while the first companion lives, and that the gospel considers not only the person that would marry again after being divorced, but also the person who would marry the divorced party, as adulterers.

Art. 9. How it is considered, when brethren who are not ordained, in the presence of ordained brethren, without being requested, take the lead at public meetings, and at morning and evening worship; seat themselves at the head of the table, and call upon ordained brethren to be free? Considered, that order is an essential rule of the house of God, and that it would be most praiseworthy if all the brethren did try in honor to prefer one another, and each one to be faithful in his station, not seeking the uppermost seats, nor forgetting the advice of the apostle (I. Pet. v. 5), "Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder."

Art. 10. How it is considered, when a man who holds the office of justice of the peace, is received by baptism as a member in the church, and is permitted to continue in his office until the time should expire for which he was elected; and how it is considered when a brother, or even a deacon, is elected to the same office of justice of the peace, and enters upon the duties of the same? Considered, that in case a man who holds such an office is convinced of the truth, and becomes willing to obey the gospel, it appears to us there would be no great difficulty to convince him also that he can not serve two masters, nor be at the same time a follower of the Lamb and a servant of the world; and as to a brother, or even a deacon, in the church to serve in such an office, it was considered quite inconsistent with the gospel we profess, and that it ought not to be.

Art. 11. Whether it be allowable for brethren to collect debts by force of law, and what is to be done with a brother who uses the power of the law, and justifies himself in the same? Considered, as always was done by the brethren, that we have no right according to the gospel to use the rigor of the law in collecting debts, and that a brother who has done so falls into the judgment of the church.

Art. 12. Whether a church has the right to make resolutions, framed by men, binding on its members? Considered by the elders, and answered thus: If the resolutions are founded upon and in accordance with the gospel to which we are all bound, they are binding; but if they are not according and even contrary to the gospel, we can not be bound to observe them, and no church can make them binding.

Art. 13. As to the next yearly meeting, invitations had been sent from Mohiccon, Ohio from Conestoga and Conowago, Pennsylvania, and from Botetourt, in Virginia; the Swatara Church having withdrawn their request, stating that circumstances did not permit them at present to re-

peat their invitation. It was finally concluded that the brethren will meet in yearly meeting next year on Thursday before Pentecost, 1843, God willing, at Mohiccon church, west of Wooster, Ohio.

Signed by the following brethren—Daniel Gerber, Christian Long, John Beeghly, John Price, Dan. Bollinger, David Pfoutz, Jacob Pfoutz, Christ. Jansen, David Ecker, John Sprogle, George Hoke, Jacob Long, And. Spanogle, John Gerber, James Tracey, Henry Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1843.

At the yearly meeting of the ancient brethren, commonly called "German Baptists," held on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost (June 2d and 3d), A. D. 1843, in Mohiccon Church, at Bro. John Shoemaker's, west of Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, the following queries were presented, and publicly discussed and answered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. Is it agreeable with the word of God for a deacon (visiting brother) to stand up in public meeting and exhort, when sufficient time has been spent already? Considered, that according to the word of God "all things should be done decently and in order;" and as teaching is the proper office of the teachers, and not of the deacons, they ought not to go any further than their calling requires of them, where it is not necessary, and it would not be advisable for a teacher to urge them (the deacons) any further than duty calls them.

Art. 2. Whether a brother may refuse the kiss to a brother who hath committed a fault—for instance, getting intoxicated—ere he has been brought and judged before the council of the church? Considered, that though a member could not be required to salute a brother with the

kiss while in a state of intoxication, it is still our duty, first to tell the fault unto the church, and to await its decision, before we withdraw ourselves from a member.

Art. 3. Whether a teacher has a right, in his exhortation to prayer, to give liberty to those who do not choose to bow down with us, to rise up in prayer? Considered, that we are to exhort our hearers to humility in prayer, and as it is generally the case, to bow down on our knees; but where there is no room, or where the ground does not permit kneeling, the brethren could see no wrong in permitting in such or another case of necessity to rise up on our feet in prayer.

Art. 4. Whether members may take the liberty to go to prayer-meetings, etc., of other persuasions, to take part in them, and to permit and invite ministers of other persuasions to hold meetings in their (the members) own houses? Considered, that as we have come into very perilous times, according to the word of our Savior (Matt. xxiv, 22–26), and of his apostles (I. Tim. iv., and II. Peter ii., etc.,) and we therefore have the greatest reason to be seriously on our guard; that prayer is an important part of worship, which must be performed in spirit and in truth in order to be pleasing in the sight of God; that consequently true inward union in prayer with such that are not in one spirit and in the same truth with us can not be thought of; that under these considerations it would be the safest course not to go to such places, nor to take part in such exercises, much less to invite or to receive teachers of whom we may know beforehand that they will not bring the whole apostolic doctrine in order to hold meetings in our houses. II. John x.

Art. 5. When a brother is put into avoidance, according to the words of Paul (I. Cor. v.), and his wife and children, being members in the church, have company with him, as it happens in a family, how the church hath to treat them, or whether there is a difference between the wife and the

children, who are yet under the lawful age; and how we are to do when there is a difference of opinion about the withdrawing of the hand from those that are in avoidance? Considered, though we are always truly sorry when such a case occurs, where we must put a member into avoidance, and feel sincere compassion for those that suffer immediately under it, yet we can not set aside this apostolic ordinance, and do really believe that the more strictly it is observed by all the members, and especially by the nearest relations, the more powerful it would operate to the salvation of the fallen member; but in case a wife could not withdraw from fellowship with the husband to be avoided, it was always considered that such a member could not break the bread of communion while so doing, and we do conceive that children are in the same predicament, either to withdraw fellowship with the parent in avoidance or not to break bread; and in regard to withdrawing the hand, it was considered that when the church concludes to withdraw even the hand, the members should all unite in observing the same.

Art. 6. Whether the ordination of a brother can be frustrated, when the whole church is united on the subject, with the exception of one or a few members? Considered, that in case the ordination of a brother is judged as necessary and proper by the church and the ordained brethren from a distance, and there could be no weighty objection made by those that are of another opinion in this matter, they ought to acquiesce in it, and the ordination might go on according to the desire of the church.

Art. 7. When a large church, by common consent, has been divided into several districts, and in one of these districts it is found necessary to hold an election for teachers and deacons, whether the members of such district alone are entitled to vote, or whether the members of the other districts have a right to vote also? Considered, that when such a division takes place by common consent, for the

greater convenience of members and of meetings, we understand it that henceforth these several districts are to form so many particular churches, though they may be under the superintendence of but one bishop, and that consequently when one of these districts, or one of these particular churches stands in need of laborers, and has to hold an election, it would be as improper for the members of the other districts to vote at such election as it would be for members from other churches that never formed a part of the old and large district. In case there were no express word for such things, we think we may safely follow the Apotle Paul, when he says (I. Cor. xi. 14), "Doth not nature itself teach you" what is proper?

Art. 8. How it might be considered when, at an election for teachers and deacons, absent members do send their votes with other members? Considered, that since the promise of our Savior is given, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matt. xviii. 20), in such important church affairs this promise belongs only to those that are assembled, and not to those that are absent; the brethren generally have acted upon that ground, and not taken any vote from absent members.

Art. 9. How it is considered, when in an important case a visit in the church is performed, and the case laid before the members, and some of them would give their opinion or judgment to the visiting brethren, but did not come themselves to the council-meeting, whether in that case the report of the visiting brethren may be considered as if the members themselves were present? Considered, in case of a judgment on a matter that has not yet been investigated by the church, in the same light as the question before. But in case of a testimony, where the member could not come personally, we would have to receive it through the visiting brethren as if the member himself were present.

Art. 10. Whether a complaint against a member may be

taken up in the church, that is of several years' standing? Considered, that this depends in a great measure upon circumstances. In complaints of a private nature, between brother and brother, the course which our Savior prescribes (Matt. XVIII.) ought to be pursued; and when we have taken the two first steps toward a reconciliation, without being satisfied, then "tell it unto the church," is the Savior's command; and when the yearly visit has gone round, and the bread of communion hath been broken, and we neglected to obey this command, the church is not bound afterward to take up our complaint. But in case a fault had been committed by a member, and was not known to the complaining member until after a length of time, it is still his duty to tell it unto the church, and the complaint is to be taken up by the church.

ART. 11. Whether a teacher, that is not ordained, can excommunicate a deacon or visiting brother on but one brother's testimony, and with only twelve members in council? The view of the brethren assembled is, that in consideration of the words of the apostle (I. Tim. v. 19): "Against an elder (which word is taken in the New Testament sometimes in a more limited, and at other times in a more general sense, and may include all those to whom is intrusted an office in the church,) receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses." In consideration again, that as a brother that is not ordained, ought not to hold an election and install teachers or deacons, so none ought to be excommunicated without ordained brethren being present; and in consideration lastly, that in such a case all the members of the church, or as many as possible, ought to be present, we could not approve of such a proceeding.

ART. 12. How it is considered when one teacher commonly consumes as much time as two, three, and four hours, in one meeting, speaking continually? The unanimous opinion of the brethren was, that inasmuch as God is a God of order, and such long-continued discourses must needs

be fatiguing, both to the teacher and the hearers, cause disorder, and deprive other teachers of the opportunity to speak, to the edification of the church, this conduct is out of all order, and ought not to be, and it would always be best not to prolong our meetings beyond the usual time.

Art. 13. As to the next Yearly Meeting, there was but one invitation, viz., from our brethren on Big Conowago, Pennsylvania (the brethren from Bodetourt, in Virginia, making application for the year 1845), and it was finally concluded that the brethren will meet in Yearly Meeting, next year, on Thursday before Pentecost, 1844, God willing, with the church on Big Conowago, York County, Pennsylvania.

Signed by the following brethren: George Hoke, John Brower, John Hart, George Shively, Henry Metzger, Joseph Showalter, Isaac Beery, John Cable, Daniel Miller, John Shoemaker, James Tracey, Henry Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1844.

At the Yearly Meeting of the brethren, sometimes called German Baptists, held at the house of Bro. Peter Deardorff, on Big Conowago, in York County, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost, May 24th and 25th, A. D. 1844, three brethren from Ohio, four from Pennsylvania, three from Virginia, and two from Maryland, were chosen as a committee, and the following points and queries were laid before, and considered by them, in the fear of the Lord, in public council-meeting:

Article 1. About the laying on of hands on deacons. This query had been before the Annual Meetings of 1838 and 1839, and the brethren generally considered, that since there is no direct command to do so in the New Testament, and on the contrary the apostle gives advice (I. Tim. v. 12),

"Lay hands suddenly on no man," it would be best to proceed in this matter as the brethren of old have done. This is, however, laid down with this proviso, that if any brother could throw more light on the subject, it might be presented again to the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 2. Whether there must be something of the supper on the table when feet-washing is observed? This query has been likewise presented several times before this, and the brethren do still consider that they could not see a better way "to have all things done decently and in order," than the one hitherto followed. I. Cor. XIV. 40.

ART. 3. Whether a brother may go to the legislative assembly, as a representative of the people, agreeably with the gospel? Considered, that though we look upon the higher powers of this world as being of God, for the protection of the pious, etc., and desire to be thankful to God for the benefits we enjoy under our government, and feel it our duty to pray fervently and daily for the same, we can not see how a follower of the meek and lowly Savior can seek and accept an office of this kind consistently with the gospel he professeth. (See Matt. XX. 25–28; Mark X. 42–46; Luke XXII. 25; John XVII. 16, etc.)

ART. 4. In regard to the difference in the form of words, which the brethren use in baptism, it was, after a free discussion, considered, since in the practice of a threefold immersion of the kneeling candidate, and in the use of the words of our Savior (Matt. XXVIII. 19), "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," we are all perfectly agreed, to lay the matter down as heretofore, and to bear with one another in love, yet so that the teachers in one and the same church, or district, ought to use the same form. (See I. Cor. I. 10).

ART. 5. About singing in different voices, at public meetings, it was considered that the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, is a part of divine worship, which we ought to perform always in the spirit, and in truth, and

with solemnity; to be watchful, that nothing in our singing should detract our minds from the serious contemplation of what we sing; that we ought to avoid such light tunes which may make us merry rather than serious; and that our singing should always tend more to the glory of God, than to the tickling of the outward ear. I. Cor. xiv. 15; Ephes. v. 19; Col. iii. 16.

Art. 6. Whether it be allowable for brethren to collect debts by force of law, it was again considered that no brother has any right, in the gospel, to sue at law. Luke iii. 14; Matt. v. 38, etc., vi. 12, etc.

Art. 7. How is considered the difference in doctrine, that some teach faith before repentance, and others repentance before faith? This query had been before a council meeting, some years ago, and was answered thus: "Considered, that the difference arises when the word is not rightly divided. The apostle teacheth us that the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith. Rom. i. 17. And again, that he who cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb. xi. 6. Out of this faith, when it is quickened, repentance will come; and when the repentant sinner hears and receives the blessed gospel, an evangelical and saving faith will issue therefrom, which worketh by love, and maketh itself known by keeping the commandments." To which the present brethren fully assented.

Art. 8. In case where man and wife are both members, and it so happens that the church would have occasion to hold one or the other in avoidance, and after being held thus, say two or more years, without manifesting any fruits of sincere repentance, which would be the most prudent course to take in behalf of the companion of such thus held in avoidance? Considered, that though we sincerely pity the innocent party, if there has no change taken place in the state of the fallen member, there can be no change in the course of the church toward such a member. But of

this, each church must judge according to existing circumstances. (See II. Cor. II. 5).

ART. 9. What to do in case a member, on a sick or deathbed, requests to have the bread of communion broken unto? Considered, that the word of God does not seem to us to justify the breaking of the bread of communion to an individual member (for where there is but one, there can be no communion), and that therefore we would be more safe to direct such a member to the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and to the advice of the apostle (James v. 14), where he says: "Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil, in the name of the Lord," etc. If they still insist upon partaking of the bread and wine, in remembrance of their dying Savior, they might be gratified, as it has been done heretofore, if there should be a love-feast in the neighborhood, by sending to them of the blessed bread and wine, or by holding a small love-feast at the right time and in the proper order at their houses.

ART. 10. How a brother is to proceed when application is made for baptism, in a place where there are no brethren to counsel with? Considered, that if a brother is authorized to baptize, and has taught them according to the gospel, and feels himself satisfied, he may proceed; but a brother who is not authorized to baptize, ought to inform other brethren, who have the authority to administer baptism. The Savior always sent his disciples by two and two. Mark VI. 7; Luke X. 1, etc.

ART. 11. Whether our brethren have the liberty, in cases of funerals, to let preachers of other denominations preach in their houses? Considering circumstances, such as a burying-ground being on the farm of a brother, the weather being inclement, etc., such liberty could not be denied to brethren.

ART. 12. How it is considered, if a member makes an open transgression, and refuses to come to the church to

acknowledge it, though he declares his willingness to make acknowledgments before some brethren? It was considered that such private confession could not be counted sufficient, since the word says (I. Tim. v. 20): "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

Regarding the next Yearly Meeting, invitations were sent from Bodetourt and Roanoke, in Virginia, from Conestoga, in Lancaster County, and from Andidum Church, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania; and the brethren concluded that it should take place, God willing, on Friday before Pentecost, 1845, in Bodetourt or Roanoke, in Virginia.

Signed by the committee—David Pfoutz, Christian Long, John Price, And. Spanogle, of Pennsylvania; Geo. Hoke, Geo. Shively, Henry Kurtz, of Ohio; John Bowman, Benj. Bowman, Daniel Miller, of Virginia; John Gerber, Jacob Long, of Maryland; and the following other brethren: Peter Nead, John Mineely, Peter Long, John H. Umstad, Jacob Pfoutz, Jacob Brubacher.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1845.

At the Yearly Meeting of the brethren, held at the house of Bro. Daniel Barnhart, in Roanoke County, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost, May 9th and 10th, A. D. 1845, all the ordained brethren present were appointed as a committee to receive the messages from the different churches, and to bring in the points and queries which were to be laid before the Yearly Meeting, for discussion, in the fear of God. They were as follows:

Article 1. In regard to the difference in the form of words which the brethren use in baptism, it was considered by the committee, to let this matter rest as it was laid down last year (see Art. 4), more especially since the brethren and churches are not so generally represented as it it would be desirable in such an important matter.

ART. 2. In regard to receiving colored members into the church, it was considered, to leave it to the counsel of every individual church, as it is done in all cases; but if colored persons are once received as members into the church, the members should be at liberty to salute them in like manner as white members, at the same time having patience with those who may be weak in the faith, and can not do so. The assembled elders, however, consider it as the more perfect way, to which we all should strive to come, viz., that love, which makes no distinction in the brotherhood, in this respect. (See James II. 1–10.)

ART. 3. In regard to hiring slaves, it was considered but little better than purchasing and holding slaves, and that it would be best for a follower of Jesus Christ to have nothing at all to do with slavery.

ART. 4. In regard to usury and increase, it was considered, that as it was against the law of Moses, and could not be otherwise than against the gospel of Christ, which commands us "to lend where we hope for nothing again," we should be very careful not to ask or take more than lawful interest, and keep an open hand for the poor, to lend them even without interest.

ART. 5. In regard to our being altogether defenseless, not to withstand the evil, but overcome evil with good, the brethren considered, that the nearer we follow the bright example of the Lamb of God, who willingly suffered the cross, and prayed for his enemies; who, though heir of all things, had on earth not where to lay his head—the more we shall fulfill our high calling and obtain grace to deny ourselves for Christ's and his gospel's sake, even to the loss of our property, our liberty, and our lives.

ART. 6. In regard to members conforming too much with the world in fashionable dressing, building and ornamenting houses in the style of those high in the world, it was considered that it is a dangerous and alarming evil,

and ought not to be among the humble followers of the lowly Jesus.

Art. 7. How it is considered, if brethren will force themselves into the ministry, without consent from the elders, and some of the members encourage them in it? Considered, that inasmuch as it appears by the words of James, chapter III. 1, by the words of our Savior (John x. 1), and of Paul (Heb. v. 4–7), there is a right way and also a wrong way to enter into the ministry—the wrong way being when one is taking this honor unto himself, and the right way, when one is called of God, by the church, which is the body of Christ, and the order of which calling to the ministry is found described in the Acts of the Apostles. Brethren ought to be very cautious when they feel a desire to preach the gospel, that they do not take the wrong way; rather humble than elevate themselves, and be fully assured that if the Lord wants their services, he has all power in heaven and on earth to bring about their calling to it in the right order and in due time; but if such brethren would still go out of the way, appoint and hold meetings, against the counsel of the church, the church would have to hold them as disobedient members, according to Matt. XVII., and members generally ought to be very careful not to encourage and support such brethren in their disorderly proceedings.

Art. 8. How it is considered, if brethren will rebel against the counsel held at council-meetings, and say, it is an abomination to God? Considered, that such a brother should be visited and exhorted, and if he would not hear and obey the admonition, he could not be held as a brother.

Art. 9. How it is considered, if brethren are accused by the mouth of two or three witnesses, of honest moral character, but not being members, and their testimony against those members agrees, that they were guilty of drunkenness, or any other crime, and the church has cause to believe such testimony, from other circumstances, but the

brethren so accused, deny the charge? Considered, as in the year 1841, Art. 6, that such members might be advised not to approach the Lord's table until the matter is cleared up to the satisfaction of the church; but to judge a brother on testimony from without alone, and without his own confession, would not be just, according to the gospel.

Art. 10. How it is considered, when a brother is carrying on a distillery? Considered in the same light as our ancient brethren did sixty-two years ago, in an annual council-meeting held on Pipe Creek, in Maryland, June 7, 1783, where they said: "Of this old and offensive evil which has been breaking into the church, and by which already much harm has been done, the counsel of the brethren having often been given that distilleries ought to be done away by members in the church, that they concluded at this time unanimously to exhort those brethren that have distilleries, that they should put them away; and when they have been exhorted once and again in sincere love, and they would still not obey the counsel of the church, and put away this disgustful image, the brethren could not break the bread of communion with them, and should also withdraw from them the kiss and church counsel, and that so long until they become willing again to be told, as they have promised in the beginning, at their baptism before God and many witnesses."

Art. 11. The question about the laying on of hands on deacons having been brought again before the Yearly Meeting, and being of such consequence and importance, it was considered, that since our churches are not generally represented—not one brother from Pennsylvania and Maryland, and also not many of our elder brethren, whose counsel had been given last year on this article, being present at this time—it would be best to refer this question to the next Annual Meeting, recommending the same to the consideration of all the churches.

Art. 12. About practicing feet-washing more according

to the example of Christ, it was considered, as in 1841, that our practice hitherto was according to the Word, and that we could not improve it.

Art. 13. About the order of Annual Meetings, it was concluded to refer the consideration of this query to the next Yearly Meeting, for the same reasons as in Art. 11, and with the same recommendation to the consideration of all the churches.

Art. 14. Whether a brother has a right to withdraw the kiss from a brother without the decision of the church? Considered, that inasmuch as our Savior directs us in a case of offense to use all means to *gain* our brother (see Matt. xviii.), the gospel allows no brother to withdraw the kiss until the church has so decided.

Art. 15. How is it viewed, when there are persons and members in a meeting, some not understanding the English, and others not the German (language), and there are some members still opposing the use of both languages? Considered, that the commission of our Savior (Matt. xviii. 19) commands us, and the love of Christ constrains us (II. Cor. v. 14), to preach the gospel to *all* nations, and in every tongue, as far as we are able. (See also Yearly Meeting 1841, Art. 4.)

[At the special Yearly Meeting in Indiana, 1845, question 6 was, "Whether in a council-meeting of the church the gospel will allow such as are not members to be admitted?" and the answer was: Considered, that inasmuch as our Savior directs us (Matt. xviii.) the course we are to take with an offending brother, to tell it in the last step *unto the church*, it seemed to be obvious by (or in) the gospel, that those who do not belong to the church ought not to be in council.]

Art. 16. As to the place and time of our next Yearly Meeting, besides the former invitations from our brethren on Conestoga, Lancaster County, and on Andidum, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, there were also invitations from

East Tennessee and from Indiana, and it was concluded that a general council-meeting should be held, God willing, this fall, in Elkhart County, Indiana, on the 26th and 27th of September, 1845, and the next Annual Meeting should take place, if it please the Lord, in the Conestoga church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost, in the next coming year of the Lord, 1846.

Signed by George Shively, Abraham Crumpacker, Peter Frantz, John Bowman, Benjamin Bowman, Daniel Barnhart, Peter Miller, Peter Nead, Christian Bowman, Samuel Garber, Austin Hylton, John Gerber, John Kline, Henry Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1846.

On the 29th of May, A. D. 1846, the brethren convened in Annual Meeting at the house of Bro. John Royer, on Trout Creek, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and the meeting being opened with singing, exhortation, and prayer, it was concluded that all the ordained elders present should retire, as a committee to receive all those matters which were to be laid before the Yearly Meeting, and these were as follows:

Article 1. As regards the way and manner of holding Annual Meetings, so as to enjoy more order, convenience, and satisfaction, it was considered, in the fear of the Lord, that the counsel of the Yearly Meeting in the year 1837, in this respect, was proper and expedient, if observed, and that the best plan will not mend the matter if it is not carried out. Different plans were proposed, and, after a long discussion and mature reflection, it was resolved to make no material change but this: That our western brethren shall have the privilege of taking the Yearly Meeting every other year, if they request it, and that our eastern brethren

should not fail to attend the same; that it should be explicitly understood and given out, that Friday and Saturday there will only be private council-meeting—all the ordained elders to form the committee to take in and bring before the meeting those matters to be considered. The public meeting should be on Sunday, and, if possible, not in the same place where the council-meeting is held.

Art. 2. Whether any individual member has a right to bring queries before the Yearly Meeting ere they have passed the council of the church? Considered, that it is proper to bring all queries with the counsel of the church.

Art. 3. About the laying on of hands on deacons. On this much and long-agitated question, it was finally laid down as the safest way to continue as heretofore. The objection—that it was an apostolical order, which ought to be observed—was answered, that (supposing the apostles had laid their hands on the heads of the deacons, which in our apprehension can not be made evident), as little as a single walk of a few men through a wilderness will make a road or beaten track, just as little a thing once done makes it an order, and that if the example of the chosen seven (Acts vii.) having had hands laid on them, would have to be observed, as some of our beloved brethren understand it, then we would also have to imitate the example of the same church, which had all things common, and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. Acts ii. 44, 45. But since we do not find in any other church established by the apostles any thing similar, and since there is also no testimony that the apostles ever after practiced the laying on of hands on the heads of the deacons, our beloved brethren will not think hard of us, if under these and other considerations, we abide by that practice with which so many faithful brethren in our churches have been introduced to the office of deacons and speakers of the Word.

Art. 4. Is there, in the churches of the brethren, any

material difference among the bishops, so that one has more power than another? Considered, that according to the word of our Savior (Matt. XXIII. 8), "One is your master, even Christ: and all ye are brethren," there is no difference in the brotherhood or among bishops but that which a higher age and more wisdom and experience may give. See I. Pet. v. 5: "Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder."

ART. 5. If a member sinneth or is disobedient, so that he is separated from the church, whether he should be publicly excommunicated, as well as he has been publicly received into the church? Considered, that as we do not receive members into the church without the private counsel of the church, so it would be inconsistent with the gospel to exclude them in any other way than by the private counsel of the church.

ART. 6. Whether one that is called a brother, and has committed any gross crime, such as drunkenness, blasphemy, fornication, etc., can continue to be a member in the body of Christ, if he confesses his fault and promises to do better; whether the church may forgive him, or whether he ought not to be expelled, until he shows forth fruits meet for repentance? Considered, that though we can conceive of extraordinary cases of such total contrition of heart, similar to that kind of leprosy (see Levit. XIII. 12–17) which broke out abroad in the skin, and the leprosy cover all the skin of him that hath the plague, from his head even to his foot, and where the priest was to consider him clean; and so the church, likewise, may unanimously feel satisfied with such signs of genuine repentance, and may be willing to forgive at once on his full confession, yet in most cases it is the safest way, in the first place to obey the instruction of the Apostle Paul (I. Cor. v.), and to excommunicate such a member with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Art. 7. Whether a brother may work in distilleries for wages, and whether a brother who owns a mill may buy, sell, and chop grain for distilleries? Considered, that as the use of ardent spirits is always dangerous to the well-being of society, and the brethren frequently have testified against the making and using of the same, it would be best for brethren not to have any thing to do with it in any shape or form.

Art. 8. About brethren making a will, and treating their children very unequally without a cause. Considered, that though we would not by any means infringe upon the right of a parent to make a free disposition of his worldly goods in his last will, it would be advisable for a Christian father not to make a great difference among his children without a good cause, and that it would be best to treat children as much alike as possible, so that love and peace may be preserved among them.

Art. 9. Is a brother that was a speaker or deacon, and has moved into another church, properly reinstalled in his office, if an ordained brother takes the counsel of the church, and announces the same to him, without he being received by the members with hand and kiss? Considered unanimously, by the elders, that inasmuch as he was properly received into his office, by the church in which he was chosen, he would be sufficiently established.

Art. 10. About pride, in its various forms, which is creeping into the church, it is thought highly necessary that the Yearly Meeting instruct and urge it upon all the overseers of the churches to see especially to that matter, and protest strongly against all manner of superfluity and vanity, such as building fine houses, and having paintings, carpetings, and costly furniture, etc., together with the adorning of the body too much after the fashion of the world. We believe that we should deny ourselves, and abstain from these things, especially the laborers in the Word, who are called to be ensamples of the flock.

Art. 11. How it is considered by this Yearly Meeting if brethren, who do not wear their beard, are to be advanced to administer baptism and the breaking of bread, or even are to be ordained? Considered, that we are much grieved; also, in this respect a deviation and want of self-denial is becoming apparent here and there, and that it would be well and laudable if we would not only keep in remembrance, but also put in practice, the example and advice of our beloved old brethren. In 1822 (twenty-four years ago), the query had been asked, "Whether a brother might be chosen to baptize and to break the bread of communion who does not wear his beard?" and was considered that, according to the image of God (in which man was created), and according to the image of Christ, we ought to wear the beard; and that a brother should not be advanced so far, who could not deny himself in this respect." In 1804 (forty-two years ago), the query came up, "Whether, if it be required, we might ordain a brother, as a bishop, who shaves off his beard?" and was considered, that, "as God created man with a beard, and again, God commanded his people, in the law (of Moses), and especially the priests of God, not to cut off the beard, and also, Christ, our master and our example, together with his disciples, may become our pattern in this respect—in consideration of these and other Scriptures and examples, it could not well be done in a sound faith and with a clear conscience."

Art. 12. Whether it is agreeable with the gospel for a sister, who is the widow of a brother, whose property will not suffice to pay his debts, for herself to claim her full third of the estate, if the laws of the land allow her? Considered, that she has full power to keep what the laws allow her; but if there be poor creditors, and she, having a large dower, she ought to be as charitable as her circumstances will permit.

Art. 13. As to the next Yearly Meeting, again request

was made by our brethren in Tennessee for a general meeting on the 4th of September next, which was granted by the assembled elders.* It will, therefore, by the permission of the Lord, take place on said time at the meeting-house near Bro. Joseph Bowman's, in Washington County, East Tennessee. The brethren from the church at Antedum, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, made again application for the next Pentecostal meeting, which was likewise granted, and the brethren will, therefore, if the Lord permit, convene in Annual Meeting in the vicinity of Waynesboro', Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on Thursday before Pentecost, A. D. 1847.

Signed by the following brethren—David Pfoutz, George Hoke, Jacob Pfoutz, Christian Long, John Bouman,

* The following queries are the counsels given by the meeting here alluded to:

ARTICLE 1. How, and whether a brother can be received who had been expelled from the church for selling and bill-of-saleing away his slaves, and afterward wishes to be received again? Considered, that such a brother can not be reinstated until he has used every exertion in his power to liberate them, and make full satisfaction to the church.

ART. 2. How is it considered for a bishop, with a few members, to expel a member without taking the counsel of the church? Considered, that in all such important matters the church must be counseled.

ART. 3. Whether we should give liberty to preachers of other denominations to speak in our stated meetings? Considered, that it would not be allowed, according to the gospel. (See II. John IX. 10.)

ART. 4. Whether a deacon can be ordained to the office of bishop? Considered, that we have no authority for so doing. (See I. Tim. III. 10, and V. 22.)

ART. 5. Whether a deacon should fill up appointments in the absence of the minister? Considered, that he may, by singing, praying, exhorting, and reading the Scriptures, but that he is not to preach until he is legally authorized by the church.

ART. 6. Whether a deacon has a right to appoint meetings and preach without being authorized by the church? Considered, that he has no authority for so doing, but that he should try to discharge the duties incumbent upon him in the office for which he has been set apart.

ART. 7. Is it obligatory for all the members of the church to wash feet, to follow the example of Christ? Ans. That we should make no change in the observance of this ordinance, but that every member should, as soon as possible, fulfill this command: "Ye ought to wash one another's feet."

Dan. Bollinger, Andre Spanogle, Peter Nead, Dan. Miller, Dan. Bernhart, Jacob Fahrney, John Funk, Peter Long, Dan. Fretz, John Price, John H. Umstad, James H. Tracey, David Shallenberger, Henry Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1847.

It was on the 21st day of May, A. D. 1847, that the brethren from the East, West, North, and South, assembled in Annual Meeting at the house of Bro. Isaac Deardorff, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and on the day following entered upon the business of the church, which seemed to be somewhat involved in clouds, and these appeared to lower themselves and become darker. This produced an anxious concern for the future peace and welfare of the church, and at length the Lord in mercy was pleased once more to smile upon his troubled children, and to grant them a joyful expectation of his helping his servants in the arduous task before them. Thus, then, the points and queries presented were considered and discussed, with rather unusual unanimity, in the fear of the Lord, as follows:

Article 1. Whether we could not amend our plan in holding our Yearly Meetings, that the business might be conducted more quietly and orderly? Concluded, in regard to our Yearly Meetings, that the brethren meet on Saturday, before Pentecost, and have public meeting till Sunday evening. Love-feast to be held either on Saturday or Sunday evening, at the option of the church where the Yearly Meeting is held. On Monday the council-meeting to begin, and continue until all the business is transacted or disposed of. The council to consist of delegates, not more than two, to be sent from each church, with a written certificate, containing, also, the queries to be presented (by the church whom they represent) to the Yearly Meeting. The dele-

gates to constitute a committee of the whole, to receive and examine all matters communicated to the Yearly Meeting, and to arrange all the queries and questions for public discussion; and after they are publicly discussed, and the general sentiments heard, then the delegates are to decide; and if two-thirds or more of the delegates agree, let the decision thus made be final; but if the nature of the case be such that two-thirds do not give their consent, let it be delayed, until it receives the voice of at least two-thirds of the legal representatives. The Yearly Meetings to be attended by as many teachers and members as may think proper to do so, and the privilege in discussion to be free and open to all who may desire to participate in the same, as heretofore.

Art. 2. Whether a brother or sister, whose companion has broken the marriage vow by fornication, may marry again according to the gospel, after he or she may have obtained a bill of divorce? It was concluded by the brethren present, that a brother or sister may not. (See Minutes of Yearly Meeting, 1842, Art. 8).

Art. 3. Whether it is advisable for brethren, who are teachers, to occupy a stand three or four steps high, when they are invited to hold meetings in the meeting-houses of the different persuasions or sects through our country? Considered advisable that teachers should practice discretion and humility, in taking their stands for speaking, and that members should, also, use forbearance, and not take offense, in such matters, if circumstances would make it preferable for teachers to occupy such a stand.

Art. 4. A request that the present Yearly Meeting reconsider the third query, as it stands on the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of 1846, concerning the laying on of hands on the deacons. It was almost unanimously concluded, that it would be better, for the present, to leave this subject rest as it is.

Art. 5. Would it be considered expedient for a church to

elect a brother for the office of deacon, whose wife is not a member? Considered, that if he be a brother of good report, and one in whom the church may have confidence, this circumstance ought not to hinder the church from electing him to the office ot deacon, provided there be no other objections. I. Tim. III. 12.

ART. 6. How it is considered, if a brother preaches up the doctrine that Jesus Christ himself baptized, and contends so hard for it, that it has already caused a division in the church? Considered, that the brethren present, at this Yearly Meeting, unanimously believe that Jesus did not baptize, but his disciples, as recorded (John IV. 2), and they also admonish such a brother not to speak so any more; and if he should still persist in so doing, that he shall not do it in the name of the brethren.

ART. 7. How is it considered, if a brother preach a sentiment, on a part of scripture, that would not be in accordance with the general views of the brethren (yet made good doctrine), whether it would be agreeable to the rules of the brethren, to make it a question at the general council-meeting, and forbid him to preach it, or condemn him for it, as erroneous, without first reasoning with him, or taking the counsel of the church wherein he lives? Considered, by the brethren present, that no accusation should be brought before the general council-meeting against a brother, in such a case, unless he first having had a hearing before his own church.

ART. 8. Whether it may be proper, and agreeable with the gospel, for a brother to borrow money from banks, or speculating money-lenders, for the purpose of buying and droving cattle, sheep, and horses, or for buying wheat, or other produce, and transporting the same to the Atlantic cities, or other public markets, for the purpose of making gain or profit? Considered, that we, in general council, would advise any brother not to engage so largely in trading, as there is great danger in so doing, both in a temporal and a spiritual point of view. (See I. Tim. VI. 9, 10)

Art. 9. How is it considered, if a brother, or a sister, should have two suits of clothes, one of them plain, to go to meeting in, and one after the fashion of the world, to go to other gatherings in? Considered, by the brethren present, that it is very unbecoming for members to do so, and that it would be the duty of the teachers faithfully to admonish such brethren and sisters again and again, if necessary, not to conform to the world in their dress and habits, as the apostles, also, have warned us. (See Rom. xii. 1, 2; I. Tim. ii. 9; I. Pet. iii. 3, 4).

Art. 10. Would it be proper for brethren to join the secret association of the Sons of Temperance? Considered, inasmuch as we are to "prove all things, and hold fast that which is good," and as the nature of secret societies is such as to preclude the knowledge of them, before a membership is obtained, we consider it improper for a member of the church to join such an order

Art. 11. Is it proper for brethren to have their property insured by an insurance company? Considered, that we can not advise brethren to do so, neither could we forbid its being done, in a mutual way.

Art. 12. As to the place and time of our next Yearly Meeting, invitations had been sent in from our beloved brethren, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and from several churches in Ohio, and in consideration of last year's conclusion, it was decided that the next Yearly Meeting should take place (with the gracious permission of God) on Pentecost, 1848, at the house of Bro. Jacob Kurtz, in Wayne County, Ohio, about fourteen miles west of Massillon, and eight miles east of Wooster. The brethren are to arrive on Friday evening, or Saturday morning, in order to attend public worship, and then continue with the council-meeting from Monday morning until the business is finished.

Art. 13. As it was deemed necessary to be done, this meeting, therefore, in the conclusion, would advise all the elders and teachers, faithfully to labor in their respective

congregations, to settle and reconcile all matters of difference that may take place among them, as far as possible, and not to embarrass the councils of the Yearly Meeting with such local cases, that might be disposed of at home, where all the facts may be more easily and fully obtained; yet after repeated efforts being made to effect a reconciliation, without success, we then conceive it to be the privilege of the brethren to call in the elders, from one or more of the adjoining congregations, to assist; and should this be done without success, it is then the privilege of the brethren, if they think proper, to refer the case to the Yearly Meeting, with as many of the facts and evidences connected with the same as may be convenient to transmit.

Signed by the following brethren: David Pfoutz, John Price, Geo. Hoke, Daniel Bollinger, Jacob Holsinger, Jacob Pfoutz, Jacob Fahrney, John Funk, John Molsbaugh, Philip Boyle, Samuel Miller, David Hardman, John H. Umstad.

A true copy of the Minutes.

Attest: HENRY KURTZ,
Clerk of Yearly Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1848.

On Monday morning, June 12th, after Saturday and Sunday having been occupied with public worship, the council-meeting was begun at 8 o'clock A. M., solemnly, fasting and prayer having been recommended to all the members present, at early morning worship, and after singing, exhortation and prayer, and also reading the fifteenth chapter of the Acts, business was entered upon by Brethren George Hoke, Jos. Gerber, John Hart, Peter Nead, John Kline, Philip Boyle, and Henry Kurtz, being appointed as a committee to receive the messages from the churches.

The following brethren appeared as delegates:

* * * * * * *

Whole number of delegates was 95, and among them were —ordained elders, 24; elders, 31; teachers, 14; deacons, 15; and private members, 11. Churches represented, 59; and though as fully represented as ever before, it is believed that only about one-third of the churches had sent messengers. The number of papers handed in, amounted to 63. Considering that the reading of all the papers, by one committee, would take up too much time, it was concluded to distribute them among ten committees, which were to examine them, and report thereon to the meeting. These committees were selected from the delegates, as follows:

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The committees having reported, one query after another was taken into consideration, and answered as follows:

Article 1. Is it right to admit, or invite, those who do not belong to our church, into our council-meetings? Considered, that it is not proper to admit, into our council-meetings, any person who is not a member of the church.

Art. 2. Whether it be proper to reconsider Art. 3, of last year's minutes, relating to preaching from a stand? Reconsidered, that all our brethren should endeavor, as much as possible, to avoid giving or taking offense.

Art. 3. How are we to receive members into the church, from their first application, until they are baptized according to the gospel? Considered, that inasmuch as there has been, hitherto, a difference in the practice, and in the form of words used in this ordinance; and inasmuch as it is desirable to be, in all such matters, of one mind, and do and speak the same things, this meeting has unanimously agreed upon the following course, and form of words, and recommend the same for adoption in all the churches:

First, the applicant to be examined by two or more brethren; then, the case to be brought before the church council, before whom the applicant is to declare his agreement with

us, in regard to the principles of being defenseless, non-swearing, and not conforming to the world; then, in meeting, or at the water, to read from Matt. XVIII., verses 10 to 22, in public, the candidates being asked if they will be governed by those gospel rules; then, prayer at the water, and in the water, the following questions to be asked:

Question: Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he has brought from heaven a saving gospel? Answer: Yea.

Question: Dost thou willingly renounce Satan, with all his pernicious ways, and all the sinful pleasures of this world? Answer: Yea.

Question: Dost thou covenant with God, in Christ Jesus, to be faithful until death? Answer: Yea.

Upon this, thy confession of faith, which thou hast made before God and these witnesses, thou shalt, for the remission of sins, be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. After baptism, while in the water, the administrator to lay his hands on the head of the candidate, and offer up a prayer to God in his behalf, and then the member is to be received, by hand and kiss, into church-fellowship.

ART. 4. How to forward a brother to the ministry, as speaker, according to the gospel? Considered, that the church is exhorted to prayer, to guide them in a proper choice, not discussing the subject with each other, but keeping their thoughts before God only; two ordained elders to be invited by the church to hold an election, who shall preside, and declare the one having the highest number of votes as chosen; the brother so chosen, having declared his willingness to fulfill the duties laid on him, is then received by hand and kiss.

ART. 5. Ought we to receive any person into the church without baptism, having been baptized by any other order of people? Considered, that this Yearly Meeting advise to be very careful in this matter, and give it, as their unani-

mous conclusion, that it would be better to admit no person into the church, without first being baptized by the brethren.

Art. 6. Whether the Scriptures require that women, praying or prophesying, should have any other covering than the hair, and whether it includes alike married and unmarried women? Considered, unanimously, that they all should have a covering on their heads.

Art. 7. How to make arrangement, that in every church brethren be authorized to baptize, and serve at communion-tables? Considered, to leave this to the judgment of the churches, with the advice of neighboring ordained elders, whether they think it necessary or expedient.

Art. 8. Whether the brethren, in annual meeting, could not adopt a plan, that small churches, which seem to be on a decline, could be better attended to? Considered, that such churches should call on the neighboring churches, and these should attend to them; moreover, it is the advice of this Yearly Meeting, that every ordained brother ought faithfully to perform his duty in this respect.

Art. 9. Whether a brother may be allowed, according to the gospel, to take pay (when offered) for performing the ceremony of marriage? Considered, that this meeting can not advise brethren to take a fee, and would leave it, as a matter of conscience, to the ministering brother, with the advice of the church in which he lives.

Art. 10. Would it not be better, in selecting the representatives, or delegates, to the Yearly Meeting, to take them all from among the lay members, or lay brethren? Considered, to refer this, and all other questions on Yearly Meeting, to the committee of elders, to consider and report thereon.

Art. 11. Can it be considered prudent, or profitable, for members to frequent camp-meetings, or protracted meetings, from time to time? Unanimously considered, not to be profitable for members so to do.

Art. 12. Can we receive a member into the church, by baptism, without a confession; and if not, what is that confession to be? Considered, that we can not receive a member into the church, by baptism, without a confession; and, what this is, see Art. 3.

Art. 13. Whether it would be expedient, or not, to bring the question from the Yearly Meeting to each church, and let them consider them, and at the next Yearly Meeting, let the decision of each respective church be made known? Considered, that it would not be expedient so to do, as it would be the means of accumulating the amount of business.

Art. 14. Is there any other way to receive members into the church, than by baptism, or is it agreeable with the gospel to receive such, that have been baptized with a triune immersion, into other bodies, or churches, to receive them in the church of God, except by re-baptizing them? Answered under Art. 5.

Art. 15. If a sister married a man, and gets to know, afterward, that he had already a wife, and she immediately forsakes him, hath she the liberty to get married to another man, while that man is yet living, according to the gospel? Considered, that we submit the case to her own judgment, and advise her, that she should, in future, be cautious, and take counsel of the church.

Art. 16. About the laying on of hands on deacons, it was unanimously considered, to postpone the discussion of this subject indefinitely, until there is reason to hope that it may be done calmly, and without prejudice.

Art. 17. With regard to the printing of the minutes of the Yearly Meetings, it was concluded to have as many printed, as to supply each church with two copies, but that on no condition they should be sold to such as are not members.

Art. 18. Whether we have any authority for liberating a person out of the avoidance, without the person making

application? Considered, that there is, to our knowledge, no such authority in the gospel.

Art. 19. Whether two ordained elders, by the approbation of part of the church, can alter the decision of three ordained elders and all the members present? Referred to next general council-meeting, in Indiana.

Art. 20. Whether three or more ordained elders have the authority of liberating, out of avoidance, independent of the church? Considered, that it can not be done properly without the counsel and consent of the church.

Art. 21. Whether it would not be more according to the word in St. John's gospel (xiii. 15), that a brother should both wash and wipe his brother's feet? Considered, that the brethren still think as they did seven years ago, in this respect. (See Minutes of 1841, Art. 2.)

Art. 22. Whether a member, agreeably to gospel, can withhold testimony against his or her matrimonial companion, when such testimony is required. Considered, that such testimony should not be withheld, according to gospel, in a case where it is absolutely necessary (for example, to the conviction and salvation of a fallen member.)

Art. 23. Is it proper for members to have their property insured? Considered, as in Art. 11 of last year.

Art. 24. Is the Lord's Supper observed by the brethren according to the gospel, or, doth the gospel require a supper in holding communion-meetings? Considered, that we have ample testimony in the gospel to enable us to conclude, that a supper was eaten by the Savior and his disciples, in the same night he instituted the communion. (See Matt. xxvi. 20; Mark xiv. 17, 18; Luke xxii. 20; John xiii.; Jude, verse 12.) And the Apostle Paul, after reproving the brethren at Corinth for their disorder, in observing the supper, and speaking of it as the Lord's Supper, expressly declares that he had received from the Lord what he had delivered unto them, telling them how to observe it in proper order. I. Cor. xi. 23–34.

Art. 25. Ought not those queries which stand upon the minutes of 1846, and were considered and decided by the elders in private committee, instead of public counsel, be repealed? The fact was stated, by impartial witnesses, that the council-meeting was broken up prematurely, on account of the multitude gathering in on Saturday, so that the elders had to adjourn to a private room, in order that they might give, as they were requested, their sense on queries yet on docket. These queries were read, with the answers given before this Yearly Meeting, and all were approved of, almost without a dissenting voice.

Art. 26. Whether it is proper in all cases to ask counsel before giving a letter of recommendation? Considered, to be best always first to take the counsel of the church.

Art. 27. Whether it is according to the spirit of the gospel, as the 14th query in Minutes of Yearly Meeting, 1841, was laid down in Somerset County, Pennsylvania? Considered unanimously, that the sentiments then expressed are right, true, and according to gospel.

Art. 28. Whether church-members have a right, according to the gospel, to go to public shows? Considered far better for members to avoid all such places.

Art. 29. The committee to whom the letters concerning our Yearly Meetings had been referred, reported as follows: No less than twelve letters, from all parts of the church, had been presented in regard to this important matter, and after reading and weighing them all, and taking also in view the general state of feeling and experience of the present meeting, we propose the following in the fear of the Lord: Considered, that this Yearly Meeting is as anxious and unanimous in the desire of following in the track of the apostles (Acts xv.) as our beloved brethren were eleven years ago, at the Yearly Meeting in 1837. We find, however, by experience, that the change of the time of holding the council *after* public meeting doth work well—removing from us the great crowd of strangers.

We are also satisfied that the sending of delegates or messengers from all the churches is necessary and proper, as also that all the elders, who come to us, ought to be members of the meeting, whether sent or not. A general committee of five or seven elders is to be appointed, as heretofore, and as many special committees as may be deemed proper or necessary in order to dispatch business. But, as to voting, we hold that it will be best to aim always at unanimity, and dispose of business as hitherto. Should the meeting not be able to agree on any one point, let it be postponed to a future meeting. In addition it was proposed that all the churches should be admonished to use every diligence in sending, every year, two delegates, or at all events one to the Yearly Meeting. The above was unanimously adopted, without a dissenting voice.

ART. 30. With regard to the call from Indiana for a general council-meeting in that state this next fall, it was concluded, with one accord, that such a meeting shall be held, God willing, at the house of Bro. John Koontz, near Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana, to meet on Saturday evening, September 23—Sunday, the 24th, to be public worship and love-feast, and Monday, the 25th, council-meeting to begin.*

* To the minutes of this year we append the minutes of the general council referred to:

ARTICLE 1. Whether a private brother has a right to speak in public meeting? Considered, that, inasmuch as there is a way appointed in the gospel to enter into the ministry, those who feel an inward desire or call to preach, should patiently wait until the church sees fit to appoint them to the public ministry. (See John x. 1, 2; Heb. v. 4, 5; Acts i., etc.)

ART. 2. Whether it is proper, if more than two or three teachers should rise in a common meeting to speak? Considered, that a due sense of order and propriety will teach us how to conduct our meetings so as to edify, and not to weary, the congregation. (See I. Cor. xiv. 32, 33, 40.)

ART. 3. How it is considered when a part, say a minority, of a church disowns the other part, or a majority, of the members, without taking a legal or scriptural course, and without giving a legal notice to the body of the church, and not showing or informing the disowned members wherein they transgressed?

[The difficulties in this case occupied the greater part of Monday and Tuesday, and lastly were postponed for deciding until Wednesday morning. See Art. 12.]

ART. 31. As to our next regular Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1849, there was but one invitation, viz., from our brethren in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and it was therefore agreed, with divine permission, to meet there in Annual Meeting, on Saturday before Pentecost, the 26th of May, 1849.

Having thus far finished the task before us, with singular unanimity and dispatch, and feeling, with deep humilty, that not unto us, nay, not unto us, unworthy instruments, but to God and his signal blessing, was due all honor and glory, the brethren united once more in singing a hymn,

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ART. 4. How would it be considered, if a man be put in the county prison for safe keeping until court, and a brother goes his security for appearance, and releases him out of prison? Considered, that a brother ought not to meddle with such matters without church counsel.

ART. 5. Whether brethren, and especially teachers, can, consistently with the gospel and our holy profession, attach themselves to the Freemasons, and the society popularly called the Sons of Temperance, and if not consistent, how the church is to proceed in such a case? Considered, that, whereas, the Holy Spirit testifies by the Apostle Paul (I. Cor. XI. 29), "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body;" and, whereas, we are informed in Holy Writ, that the Lord's body is his church—of which we desire to be members—and he is the head; * * * that from such and other considerations and declarations of the word of God, the brethren have always believed, and do still believe, that it is not only unbecoming and wrong, but highly dangerous, for brethren to attach themselves to such secret societies, or any association of this world, and if they should do so, they should be visited in love (as the advice was forty-four years ago, in a Yearly Meeting at Pipe Creek), and admonished to withdraw themselves from such, and if they should acknowledge their fault before the church, the members might bear with them. But in case of a minister of the Word having gone so far, not only to attach himself to such secret societies, but also to act as their chaplain and orator, it was considered, that such a brother ought to be silent in the church, until the members should feel renewed confidence in him again.

ART. 6. What is the sense of the brethren, when two districts are in one neighborhood, and members from other parts move into one district, and wish to hand in their certificate, and to attach themselves to the other district? Considered, that it would be best, always, that when districts are laid off, all those in the one district ought to belong to it, and those in the other to that.

ART. 7. How it is viewed, when persons, living in one district, request to be baptized and received into church-fellowship in the other district,

and bowing themselves in the praises and thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and commending ourselves, and the churches in union with us, to the God of our salvation; fervently praying that he, in tender mercy, would continue to let his light shine upon us; lead us and guide us through all dangers and difficulties, make us useful instruments in his hands for the edification of his church, and to the conversion of a sinful world, and finally save us with an everlasting salvation, through our crucified Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lastly, at the parting meal, Wednesday noon, it was

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whether it is proper to receive them without counsel of the district in which they live? Considered, that we deem it advisable, and it has generally been the course of the brethren, in a case where a person made application for baptism in a meeting out of the district in which the applicant lives, to hold council with the members of that church in whose bounds he resides.

Art. 8. How it is considered, if a brother, that is chosen for an office in the church, should move from one church and neighborhood to another, and bring no testimony along—whether he can be received in his office before a testimony arrives? Considered, that, if such a brother moves only a little way, into a church where his standing is generally known, there would be no need of a written testimony; but if a brother should move a considerable distance, it is right and proper to require a testimony before such is received in his office.

Art. 9. Whether brethren can, according to the gospel, use the force of the law and collect money from brethren, and thereby cause considerable costs; and whether brethren, causing such costs, should not at least pay the same? Considered, that the gospel gives no right to use the force of the law against a brother; and as to the other point, in regard to the costs, the church can judge best in each individual case.

Art. 10. What is the proper course for a church to pursue with members that have been disowned by the church, and their office, as teachers in the church, taken from them, and yet, contrary to the counsel of the church, they still go on to hold meetings, and influence innocent members to go contrary to the rules and order of the church? Considered, that such a brother should be still lovingly and faithfully admonished, again and again, to desist from such a course; but if he would, notwithstanding, continue therein, we would have, as a last remedy, to put him in avoidance.

Art. 11. When the church disowns a member, so that it is set back from the salutation of the kiss, and from church fellowship, how is the proper way to do with such members as come from other arms of the church, and, knowing the standing of such disowned members, yet will

proposed, and heartily responded to by all, to recommend every Monday of our future Annual Meetings as a day of general fasting and prayer, not only to the members that may be gathered at the place of meeting, but to all the members in every part of the Lord's vineyard, who yet desire to be faithful, and to see all the household of faith continue steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine, and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers, even until He comes, who hath said, "Surely, I come quickly." Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

Signed, in the name of the meeting, and in behalf of the following ordained elders: George Hoke, Joseph Gerber, John Hart, Henry Kurtz, Philip Boyle, Peter Nead, John Kline, ——— ———, James H. Tracey, Michael Moyer, John Metzger, John Molsbaugh, George Shively, Jos.

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still hold fellowship with such? Considered, that, inasmuch as the church of Christ is one body, all over the world, and the Word even says, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosened in heaven," if one branch of this church disowns a member, members from other branches, knowing this, should hold them equally as disowned.

ART. 12. In regard to the third query, or the difficulties of Bachelor's Run Church with Bros. Oyman and Patton, and others, the brethren in general council considered that there had been committed errors on both sides, in consequence of which many members on both sides made satisfactory acknowledgments before the meeting, and it was concluded, that, with such, all that is past should be forgiven and forgotten, and with as many as may yet come and make satisfaction, and that they all should be received into full fellowship, and Bro. David Fisher in his office as a speaker. Furthermore, this meeting considers and counsels, that Bros. Oyman and Patton, and such others that hold yet with them, should have yet time to reflect, and should they come, also, in a reasonable space of time, and make satisfactory acknowledgment, then the church should also be willing to forgive them; but if they should persist in their contrary course, going on holding meetings in opposition to the church, and even become railers of the church, there would be no other way than to put them into full avoidance, according to I. Cor. v.

Signed by the following brethren—George Hoke, George Shively, Joseph Showalter, and H. Kurtz, of Northeastern Ohio; Joseph Gerber and P. Nead, of Southwestern Ohio; Dan. Cripe, of Elkhart, Indiana; J. Molsbaugh, D. Miller, J. Hart, H. Metzger, J. Metzger, Jac. Brower, etc.

Showalter, Ben. Bowman, John Shoemaker, George Rarigh, John H. Umstad, Jacob Meyer, ——— ———, David Shoemaker, Daniel Miller, John Shively, John Holsinger.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1849.

Article 1. How is it considered, if a brother teacher, who is not ordained, makes appointments far and near, without the counsel of the church? Considered, that our younger brethren in the ministry, in all cases, should be careful not to appoint meetings or do any thing that is beyond their calling, and consequently would offend the church, or the older brethren, not only, but God also.

Art. 2. Is it in accordance with the gospel for a brother to call the meeting to rise upon their feet, after worship is concluded with singing and prayer, and then, with uplifted hands, pronounce a blessing over them? Concluded, that it should not be.

Art. 3. Can it be allowed for brethren to wear fur or cloth caps, and sisters to wear trimmed-straw or leghorn bonnets? Considered, to be inconsistent with the word of God, and therefore it ought not to be.

Art. 4. Concerning the holy kiss, how often should it be practiced? Considered, if we have love for one another we should not dispense with it, especially at our meetings for worship.

Art. 5. Some members think there is too much feasting at our love-feasts, in providing so much for those who come to feast, and make disturbance at our meetings. Considered, that we are to feed the hungry, if we are led by Christ's example; and the apostle says, "Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink:

for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Rom. XII. 20.

ART. 6. Would it not be well to have a committee appointed, at this or some future Annual Meeting, whose duty it should be to collect all the advice of councils, bearing on all points of duty, and put it in the form of a book, and bring it before the council of the following year, for their approbation, and, if approved of, get it printed—so that each member might have a copy, not as a creed, but as advice, and as a testimony of the truth, as we understand it? Considered, to let this matter lay over.

ART. 6. An objection alleged against the printing of so few of the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting; would it not be expedient to have a greater number printed? Postponed the consideration of this to another query of like import. (See Art. 43.)

ART. 8. Would it not be right for the brethren, in council at the Annual Meeting, to appoint several brethren that are experienced and sound in the faith, and send them, two and two, with the decisions of the Annual Meeting, and let them visit all the congregations in the United States, and establish them all in the same order, according to example (Acts XV.)? Considered, to leave this over for further consideration.

ART. 9. What is the duty of a bishop toward his church, and the duty of the church toward the bishop or bishops? In case a bishop commits an error, is it to be overlooked more in him than in another brother in office, or a private member? Considered, that elders that rule well, should be counted worthy of double honor, and that overseers should not undertake any thing of importance without counsel of the church, and if there should be a general complaint of the church against him, he is to acknowledge his fault before the church, like another member, and should not be spared; for "if the eye be evil, the whole body shall be full of darkness." Still, it was always the

advice of our old brethren, that, in any case where laboring brethren were in a fault, strange and impartial brethren, of experience, should be called to assist in the investigation and justification of the same.

ART. 10. Is it proper for members of the church of Christ to take stock in railroad or similar companies—such as bank stock, etc.? Considered, as the stock of incorporate companies, only, and not the individual property held by the stockholders, is responsible for debts incurred by the company, and as the business of such companies is often much involved in obscurity, and persons dealing with such companies may be liable to be deceived, brethren had better not engage in such investments.

ART. 11. Is it proper for a member of the church of the Brethren in Christ to commune with other religious societies; and if not considered proper, how shall the church proceed with a member that violates its order? We consider, that we can not, consistently with the views we entertain of the gospel order, commune with other societies; and if any of our members should do so, they ought to be tenderly admonished, and given to understand that the brethren can not hold them in fellowship, if they continue to do so.

ART. 12. Concerning the propriety and necessity of recommendations for members that move from one church to another? Considered, that the ministers in the various churches should see that none of their members should move away without a recommendation, that no church is bound to receive a member without recommendation, and that the recommendation be signed by not less than two or three witnesses, according to the gospel; that the apostles gave written recommendations. (See Rom. XVI. 1, 2; I. Cor. XVI. 10, 11; II. Cor. VIII. 23; Eph. VI. 21, 22; Col. IV. 7–9; I. Thess. III. 2, etc.)

ART. 13. When a member offends in a church, and moves away without being reconciled, can he obtain a certificate

by writing, without personally presenting himself? Considered, when a member removes, under such circumstances, and is so far away, or situated unfavorably for coming back to make reconciliation, when he wishes to do so, if the church from which he removed is satisfied with his acknowledgments, made in writing, it may signify this satisfaction in a letter to the church where he resides.

ART. 14. Is the supper, which the brethren eat in connection with the communion, sacred or common? As there seems to be some reason to believe that the Apostle Paul alludes to the supper, with other means of grace, in the term "ordinances," used (I. Cor. XI. 2), and as we view it as a practice of the apostolic church, to promote the spiritual edification of its members, we consider it a sacred institution, and as such it ought to be observed, especially as it is emphatically called "the Lord's Supper." I. Cor. XI. 20.

ART. 15. About the still-existing difficulties in Bachelor's Run Church, Carroll County, Indiana? Concluded, in general council, that Peter Nead and Mich. Moyer, of Montgomery County, and Daniel Miller of Preble County, Ohio, with such other brethren as they may see proper to call to their assistance, should be a committee to visit said church, and try once more to settle the difficulties there existing.

ART. 16. Whether each church should not select one brother as a corresponding brother in the church? Considered, that each church may do as they think proper in this matter.

ART. 17. Whether brethren can be allowed to have their likeness or profile taken? Considered, as not advisable.

ART. 18. Whether it is advisable to give preachers of other denominations privilege to speak at our regularly appointed meetings? Considered, it is not advisable.

ART. 19. Should the supper, or part of it, be on the table at the time of feet-washing, or not? Considered, to leave this matter as hitherto practiced by the brethren.

Art. 20. Whether a laying off of the large church, here in the Glades, into several districts, would not be thought expedient? Considered, unanimously, that it seems to be necessary and expedient that this church should be laid off into four or five districts, and that a committee of elders should be appointed to visit this church, during the ensuing summer, and assist the brethren in laying off and organizing said districts, and at the same time, also, to visit Indian Creek Church, and settle the difficulties that may exist in both churches. The committee was finally nominated, as follows: Peter Long, Andrew Spanogle, and John Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; Joseph Arnold and Jacob Byser, of Virginia, and George Hoke and H. Kurtz, of Ohio.

Art. 21. Is the Lord's Supper a divine or sacred ordinance; and if so, have the children of God a right to invite such as are not members to eat it with them at the same table and time? Considered, to be a divine and sacred ordinance (as all the Lord's ordinances are), and should be eaten by the members only.

Art. 22. Can a brother be allowed to teach singing-schools on Sundays, and take money for the same? Considered, much as we are in favor of correct singing, we still think it best for a brother not to teach singing-shools.

Art. 23. What should be done with such members, as neglect attending our meetings for six or more months, and when the yearly visit is paid them, they seem or feel satisfied with the church, and when there is a love-feast, they generally attend and commune? Considered, that the ministering brethren in the church, in which such members are, should earnestly admonish them to adhere to the advice of the Apostle Paul (Heb. x. 25.

Art. 24. How is it considered, when a brother, who is a deacon of the church, holds and defends the views of Romanists, and other sects? Considered, that such a brother should be visited by the brethren, and admonished; and if he still persists to hold and defend such views and practices,

contrary to the views of the brethren, he could not be continued as a brother.

Art. 25. Whether it would not be agreeable to the gospel, to advise those members, who have been in the church two or three years, and are still conformed to this world, not to come to communion, until they deny themselves, and become transformed from the world, after being admonished thereto? Considered, that conforming to the world presents itself in such various ways, that we can not erect a standard in regard to it, so as to authorize the church to prohibit such members from partaking of the communion; but such members should be admonished and reproved by the church, again and again.

Art. 26. When the church deals with a member, or members, and they are not satisfied with the proceedings of the church, whether it is in their, or in the church's place, to write to strange brethren for assistance? Considered, that the church would have to write, if any strange brethren should be called on.

Art. 27. To how great a degree must a brother sin, and be degraded, before the church can put him in avoidance, according to the gospel; and whether all dealings and communications, of a temporal nature, between such an individual and the members of the church, should cease? Considered, that this subject has been often before the Yearly Meeting, and the views of the brethren then were read. But on the particular points of the present query, we would refer our dear brethren to the word of God, which is plain, explicit, and sharper than a two-edged sword. Paul, the apostle, says (Rom. xv. 4): "Whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning;" and he evidently refers, in these words, to the writings of the Old Testament. Now, we find (Levit. v. 17): "If a soul sin, and commit any of these things, which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his

iniquity, and he shall bring a trespass-offering unto the priest, and it shall be forgiven him." From this we may learn, that when a member has trespassed against God and the truth, even in ignorance, it is his duty to come to the church, and bring his trespass-offering, such as David says (Psalm LI. 17): "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise;" and the church, which, according to I. Pet. II. 9, is "a royal priesthood," is to judge, and receive his offering, and forgive him accordingly. Here are the words of Christ himself, duly to be considered: "Whosesoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosesoever sins ye retain, they are retained." John XX. 23, etc. Should, however, such a member, that hath trespassed, be not willing to bring his offering of acknowledgment of his fault, not be willing to hear the church, then we may consider this as a rising, a scab, or bright spot, which, eventually, may turn into moral leprosy (Levit. XIII. 2), and in this case the priest (the church) had to shut him up; for, as Paul says (II. Thess. III. 6): "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly," etc.; and as our Lord taught us (Matt. XVIII. 17): "If he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." This withdrawing, or shutting up, from close communion with the church, in the salutation of the kiss, the breaking of bread, and the secret council, is continued until it appears, to the satisfaction of the priest (the church), whether that spot is leprosy or not. Now if, on examination, the priest found that white spot somewhat dark, and that the plague did not spread in the skin, he was to pronounce him clean. So, when a member begins to see and acknowledge his fault, as somewhat dark, he may be reinstated again into full communion. "But when the raw flesh appeareth in him, and the leprosy is thus confirmed [N. B.—He shall not be shut up, for he is unclean], and the

leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean; he shall dwell alone, without the camp shall his habitation be." Levit. XIII. 10, 45, 46. So our ancient brethren considered, when the moral leprosy in a member was confirmed by raw works of the flesh, such as are described (I. Cor. v. 11; Gal. v. 19–21, etc.), that the direction of the Holy Ghost, by the mouth of the Apostle Paul, was to be strictly and literally obeyed, viz.: "*Not to keep company, and with such an one not to eat.*" Our brethren were well aware of some commentators explaining these words, as if they meant only not to have fellowship with such in spiritual matters, and not to eat with them the bread of communion. But they (our brethren) found it impossible to believe, that the church at Corinth should have continued, in full fellowship, such a person as is described (I. Cor. v. 1); that they should have still broken the bread of communion with him, etc., even until the apostle reproved them by this epistle. They (the brethren) also thought of the awful words (Rev. XXII. 18, 19), and so they adhered simply to the word, as it reads, had no intercourse, no dealings of any kind, with such persons, and did not eat with them at the same table, or out of the same dish, at any common meal, while they were in this state of avoidance. Only acts of charity toward them our brethren did not consider prohibited by the word of God. And these views we still hold, in communion with our departed brethren.

ART. 28. Whether a brother, who considers himself injured by any public improvement, such as a turnpike, or railroad, passing through his land, can, without a violation of the gospel, make use of the provision of the law, which the Government has enacted for the recovery of damages in such cases? Considered, as the matter has been fully stated, that it would not be a violation of the gospel to make use of the provisions of the law in such cases.

Art. 29. How is it considered, when a brother solemnizes a marriage contract, between a sister, whose first husband is not known to be dead, and another individual? Considered, that under such circumstances, a brother ought not to act.

Art. 30. Whether it is advisable for a brother to preach universal redemption publicly; that is, that all men, how vile soever they may have been, shall share alike in the fruition of happiness with the saints? Considered, that we could not approve, by any means, of such preaching.

Art. 31. How are we to conduct, with colored members, at communions? Considered, that this ought to be left to the individual churches, in which such members are, only that these ought not to be debarred from the Lord's table, on account of their color.

Art. 32. Is it material what the supper is composed of at communions? Considered best not to deviate from the order of the old brethren.

Art. 33. Is it safe and proper for the humble followers of Jesus to go to the elections, and take an active part in the political affairs of the country? Considered, as it was always the advice of the old brethren, and as the anointing (I. John II. 27) will teach every sincere follower of Jesus, that it would be safest, in regard to political elections, to remain as neutral as possible; and, rather than going to the election, to commit the matter, in prayer, to the care of Him, who setteth up and removeth rulers.

Art. 34. Whether a brother, being elected to the office of constable, contrary to his will, would be justifiable in taking the obligations of the office, and transfer it to another person, who will discharge the whole duties of said office? Considered, while the brother would have to be under oath, and responsible for all the acts of his substitute, it would not be safe for him to do so.

Art. 35. Whether it would not be more consistent with the Word, if, at the communion, the administrator would

give the bread and cup to the sisters, and they divide it, like the brethren, among themselves, and the administrator to pass along, to keep order? Considered, unanimously, to go on, in celebrating the communion, as heretofore.

Art. 36. Has a bishop authority to request a deacon, who moved into his church without a letter of recommendation from the church from which he came, to take his place at a meeting for worship, and to preach or exhort? Considered, that he has no such authority, and the members that move from one church into another, ought always to bring a certificate of their membership and standing.

Art. 37. If a member commits an open fault in the world, has the overseer authority to send brethren to investigate the matter before counseling the church? Considered, that the overseer has the authority to do so.

Art. 38. Whether our hymn-books, now in use, could not be improved, by a better selection? Considered, that the hymn-books we have, answer our purpose very well.

Art. 39. Whether it would not be more according to the gospel, in the observance of feet-washing, for the brother, at the head of the table, to wash and wipe the feet of the brother on his right hand, and that brother to wash and wipe the feet of the next, and so on, around the table? Considered, that as this question has so often been before the council, and that the manner of its observance could not be amended, we are still of the opinion, that the command is fully obeyed, if we wash our feet among one another, as rendered by the German translation; but we would recommend to each brother and sister, at the earliest opportunity, to obey the command to wash, and that in washing, the members should change frequently.

Art. 40. How are we to proceed, if a brother is not willing to be visited by the church, in which he lives, but claims to belong to another? Considered, that we should always be subject to the church, or district, to which we belong, as those districts are only laid off for convenience, and not to divide the body.

Art. 41. Concerning the propriety, or necessity, of giving meals to the congregation, at common meetings? Considered, that we leave this matter altogether discretionary to every individual, church, or family.

Art. 42. How to prevent the influence of phrenology and mesmerism among the brethren, adverting to the caution of Paul to the church at Colossus (Col. II. 8): "Beware, lest any man spoil you, through philosophy and vain deceit?" Considered, that the brethren could, and should, otherwise be better engaged.

Art. 43. Whether each elder, teacher, and visiting brother, should not have the privilege of having a copy of the minutes of the Yearly Meeting? Considered, that we are in favor for each ministering brother to have a copy, and that they be advised to keep them, if possible, from coming before the world; and we should further recommend, that they should be sent sealed, as we have known them to be opened in post-offices.

Art. 44. Would it not be more consistent with the simplicity of the gospel not to use the word "delegate," or "representative," in the minutes? Considered, that as words convey ideas, we should use such as shall best answer that purpose.

Art. 45. Whether it would not be best, at our Annual Meetings, for the committee to investigate the letters on Saturday, in order that the business might be more readily disposed of on Monday? Considered, that the present arrangement is probably as good as we could adopt.

Art. 46. Where is our next Annual Meeting to be? Invitations were sent from Montgomery County, Ohio, for the Yearly Meeting in 1850, and from Virginia, and Aughwick, Pennsylvania, for the Yearly Meeting in 1851; and it was concluded, that our next Annual Meeting should take place, God willing, on Pentecost, 1850, at Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Ohio, and that our brethren in Virginia are considered to have the first claim for the year following, if the invitation be repeated.

Signed, in the name of the meeting, by (order of) the following ordained elders: Geo. Hoke, J. Showalter, Henry Kurtz, Peter Nead, A. Spanogle, J. Molsbaugh, Peter Long, John Kline, Jacob Sayler, Samuel Wampler, Peter Kober, Jacob Meyer, Daniel Yundt, George Shafer, Joh. Holsinger, Jac. Stutzman, D. Shoemaker, Jos. Arnold, Thos. Clarke.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1850.

After the public exercises were concluded, the brethren met in general council, which was opened, as usual, with singing, exhortation, and prayer, and the following queries were submitted for consideration, and decided, as follows:

Article 1. A request that counsel be given to the church on Eel River, Indiana, in order that the difficulties there existing might be settled. Concluded, that inasmuch as the said church is in an unreconciled state toward one another, this meeting doth appoint Brethren Peter Nead, David Bowman, jun., Daniel Miller, and Abr. Ehrbaugh, of Ohio, and Jacob Miller, James H. Tracey, and David Hardman, of Indiana, as a committee, to visit said church, and assist in settling the existing difficulties.

Art. 2. How it is considered, inasmuch as our beloved brother, Henry Kurtz, is not present at this meeting, for to appoint a committee, to have the minutes of this meeting printed, and to receive all moneys appropriated to defray the expenses of printing? It has been agreed upon, by this meeting, that Bro. Benjamin Bowman, of Virginia, Daniel Summer, of Ohio, and David Hardman, of Indiana, be this committee.

Art. 3. The number of papers handed to the committee of elders, amounted to fifty-five, which were distributed among twelve committees, to investigate them, and report thereon.

The first committee, consisting of Bretnren George Butterbaugh, John Myer, John Bower, Joseph Hardman, and Jacob Funderburg, reported as follows:

Art. 4. How it is considered, if a sister marries an unbelieving husband, who afterward doth ill-treat her, by slander and debauchery, and, in many ways, abuses and grieves her, so as to forbid and prohibit her going to meeting, or to any of her friends and relations; she then, upon the advice of her friends (members of the church), leaves him, and tries to get rid of him by law, upon which he offers to give himself up to the church, and is willing to do what the church lays upon him, acknowledgeth that he has done wickedly, and promises to do better; but he having made such promises before, and did not come up to them, the friends of the sister do not think it proper for her to unite with him again? Considered, that we could not advise the sister to leave her husband; but if she did so, she ought to remain unmarried, according to Paul's writing to the Corinthians (I. Cor. vii. 11–13).

Art. 5. Whether it is right for brethren, in different arms of the church, to go against the counsel of the Yearly Meeting? Considered, that it is wrong for brethren to go against the counsel of our great Annual Meetings. But should brethren not be satisfied with said counsel, they have liberty, with the consent of their church, to bring the matter before another Yearly Meeting, for a reconsideration.

Art. 6. A request that the regular order of choosing teachers among the brethren, should be entered at large on the minutes of this Yearly Meeting, so as to counteract wrong impressions, derived from certain publications. Referred to the next Annual Meeting.

The second committee, consisting of Brethren Jacob Miller, Christian Arnold, Leo. Blickensterfer, Abraham Frantz, and Em. Beeghley, reported as follows:

Art. 7. Is a brother, being a full member in the church, allowed to purchase cattle, and other animals, and follow

butchering, hire, or rent, a stall in a market-house, and attend market, as a butcher, every market morning? Considered, that a brother engaged in butchering, in the manner stated in the question, is surrounded with many difficulties and temptations, and that we would advise brethren not to do so.

Art. 8. If a brother, or sister, commit a gross crime, such as getting drunk, etc., can it be settled, by any visiting brethren, without bringing it before the church, or what course is to be pursued in such cases? Considered, that a brother, or sister, guilty of a crime, as set forth in the question, should be brought before the church, agreeable to Paul's first letter to Timothy (chap. v. 20): "Them that sin, rebuke before all, that others, also, may fear."

Art. 9. Is it allowed for a brother to fulfill a worldly office, especially one that holds an office in the church; and if not, what is the proper course to proceed with such a brother? Considered, that we could not advise brethren to crave worldly offices; but if the people of the world should impose an office on any of our brethren, they should, before acting in such office, lay the matter before the church, and act agreeable to the counsel of the same.

Art. 10. Whether we can hold, as members, man and wife, that live together in strife, that have been parted on that account, and now live together, but not as man wife should? Considered, that we could not hold such as members.

The third committee, consisting of Brethren Geo. Hoover, Thomas Clark, Ab. Maas, Jacob Garver, Isaac Lawshe, and John P. Ebersole, reported as follows:

Art. 11. Request of next Annual Meeting to be held with our brethren, in Augusta County, Virginia. Agreed upon. (See at the end).

Art. 12. How it is considered, when a man leaves his wife, and then marries an excluded sister, and afterward moves a considerable distance, where their standing is not

generally known; there he makes application to be received into the church, asserting that his first wife had committed fornication, without any other testimony but his own; then a letter is written to the church, where the sister was excluded, for counsel, which is answered, advising to admonish her to love the church, until the Lord may bring about a way for her reception, stating, also, that they could frankly forgive her what she had been excluded for; the letter further stating, that there was a report that her husband's first wife was dead, and another, that she was not. Finally, he was baptized, and she received again, as a sister, without testimony, by the voice of one minister and twenty-one private members, in favor, and one minister, with three private members, opposed to their reception? Considered, that such persons should not be received into the church, under such circumstances, and that the brethren, who received them, have erred, and should make acknowledgments before the church, in order to the reconciliation of those brethren, who have been grieved at their proceedings.

Art. 13. Whether brethren, being requested, should visit and pray for persons living in a state of adultery? Considered, that they should be visited, instructed, and admonished, and as they manifest fruits of repentance, or not, pray for them, according to their state.

Art. 14. Whether the eighth query of last year's Annual Meeting was not fully decided in the eighth query of the Annual Meeting of 1848, which, if carried out, would fully answer the purpose? Referred to next Annual Meeting.

The fourth committee, consisting of Brethren James Kelso, John Metzger, Dan. Miller, on Four-Mile, Phil. Rothenberger, and David Studybecker, reported as follows:

Art. 15. Whether it is according to the gospel for a church to lay a public acknowledgment on a brother that has made a public offense? Considered, that the acknowledgment is to be made before the church alone, and

before all the members present. (See I. Tim. v. 20): "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

ART. 16. What is the duty of a minister, when called upon to solemnize marriage, when one of the parties is the child of members, and these parents not consenting to the match, yet the minister knows of no other objection but the daughter's going from home to get married? Considered, as not advisable without the consent of the parents. Paul says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Rom. XII. 18; Heb. XII. 14.

ART. 17. How it is considered, when a sister has an unbelieving husband, who gets drunk and abuses her, and tempts to kill her with an ax; she then leaves him and returns to her father, who then goes to the housekeeper in the church for advice, upon whose advice a bill of divorce is obtained? Considered, that a housekeeper has no right to give such advice, without counseling the church, neither has the sister a right to get divorced without such counsel. (See Matt. XIX. 6–9; I. Cor. VII. 11.)

The fifth committee, consisting of Brethren John Letherman, Thomas Major, Isaac Hartzock, Henry Neff, and Jacob Ebersole, reported as follows:

ART. 18. Would it not be more in accordance with Holy Writ, and the consistent manner of a plain people, to use the plain language, especially calling the days and months by their number? Considered nearer the gospel to use plain language.

ART. 19. Whether it would be agreeable to the order of the church, where there is a bishop and two or more teaching brethren in one arm of the church, to elect a bishop without the consent of the church? Considered, necessary, by all means, to have the voice of the church in such cases.

ART. 20. If a member commits a fault, whether the church has the power, according to the gospel, to put that member in avoidance without the assistance of another church?

Considered, that, if there is a bishop in that church, they have the power in the case of a private member.

Art. 21 Whether there is any danger to be apprehended from publishing a paper among us? This subject to lay over till next Annual Meeting.

The tenth committee, consisting of Brethren David Miller, Abraham Erbaugh, Jacob Wine, Daniel Nare, and Peter Showalter, reported as follows:

Art. 22. Whether the committees could not be selected, and the questions taken in, at our Annual Meetings, on Saturday, as well as on Monday? Considered, to leave it as it is at present.

Art. 23. If a woman leaves her husband for his extreme cruelty, and he obtains a bill of divorce and marries another woman, and his first wife afterward marries another man, both being unbelievers, can such persons be received into the church of Christ, according to the gospel? Considered, that we could not receive such, according to the gospel. Rom. vii. 1–3; I. Cor. vii. 10, 11, 39.

The sixth committee, consisting of Brethren John Frantz, George Studybecker, John Hunsicker, Benjamin Byerly, and Christian Long, reported as follows:

Art. 24. Can a member that is cut off, and kept in avoidance, be afterward released again from the bonds of excommunication, without acknowledging the fault, or without coming and requesting to be released; and in case members are released without confessing their fault, or desiring to be released, how shall other members conduct themselves toward them? Considered, that, where a member has committed one of those faults mentioned by the Apostle Paul (I. Cor. v.), and has been put in avoidance, the church having sufficient evidence that he has ceased from those evils, and by his earnest request, he may be released out of the bonds of avoidance.

Art. 25. There is a body of people, or brethren, in the far West, whose doctrine and practice is somewhat differ-

ent from ours. Some of our brethren live near, or almost among them. Now, the question arises, are the brethren privileged, according to the gospel, to hold communion with them, under existing circumstances? Considered, that, according to the gospel, and the constant practice of the church, it would not be advisable for brethren to commune with them, until a union is effected, and they are agreed to practice according to the ancient order of the church. I. Cor. IV. 17.

ART. 26. Why the Annual Meeting was not conducted, or carried out, according to the order or plan laid down at the Yearly Meeting, 1847? Considered, that the querists shall be referred to the Minutes of Yearly Meeting, 1848, Art. 29, where twelve letters are mentioned, which contained chiefly remonstrances against said plan.

ART. 27. About the laying on of hands, on deacons, when installed into office? Considered, that the brethren, after a long continued and attentive investigation of the word of God, on this agitating subject in question, have come to the following conclusion:

Whereas, it is plain, from the acts and proceedings of the apostles, that there must have been deacons in those days, and that these deacons must have been active in their office, before the seven teachers or evangelists were chosen and installed into their office (See Acts II. 45, and IV. 35): "Distribution was made unto every man, according as he had need"—from which we conclude, if distributions were made to every man, there must, of course, have been those that made them; hence, it is the opinion of the brethren, in this council assembled, that the seven chosen and set before the apostles (Acts VI. 6) were selected from among, as we might say, the first class of teachers (See Acts VI. 3, 8; VIII. 6, 7, 36–38; XXI. 8), and hands laid on them by the apostles, to establish them, to settle the difficulty that had arisen among the deacons about the daily ministrations, and that the seven were not deacons in the restricted sense of the

word, and were never called such—the word deacon never once occurring in the whole book of Acts.* Therefore, the laying on of hands ought to be practiced on such old teachers that are set apart, and deacons ought to be received into their office by hand and kiss, as the practice has been hitherto with the brethren. The English version contains the word deacon twice more (I. Tim. III. 10, 13), but the Greek original has not the same word, and the German translation is more correct in these two instances, saying, literally (verse 10), "Then let them *serve*, being found faithful;" (verse 13), "For they that *serve* well, purchase to themselves a good degree," etc.

The seventh committee, consisting of Brethren Abraham Miller, Joseph Harter, David Mishler, Henry Bear, and Moses Shoup, reported as follows:

ART. 28. How is it considered, when a district or church do not observe the ancient order of the brethren, and have new orders among them? Concluded, that no district church has any right to make changes in any thing whatsoever, contrary to the ancient order, without proper investigation before, and the general consent of, the Annual Meeting.

ART. 29. Is a member, brother or sister, not as justifiable in buying lottery tickets as in purchasing bank stock, or taking eight or ten per cent. interest on money loaned to a brother? Considered, that buying lottery tickets is very wrong; taking more than lawful interest is worse still, and taking stock in a bank ought to be avoided, also, by brethren. (One wrong can never justify another.)

The eighth committee, consisting of Brethren David

* The word deacon (Greek *diakonos*) occurs about thirty times in the New Testament, and is rendered in the common English version twenty times minister, seven times servant, and only three times deacon. (See Matt. XX. 26, XXII. 13, XXIII. 11; Mark IX. 35, X. 43; John II. 5, 9, XII. 26; Rom. XIII. 4 (twice), XV. 8, XVI. 1; I. Cor. III. 5; II. Cor. III. 6, VI. 4, XI. 15 (twice), and 23; Gal. II. 17; Eph. III. 7, VI. 21; Phil. I. 1; Col. I, 7, 23, 25, IV. 7; I. Thess. III. 2; I. Tim. III. 8, 12, IV. 6.

Ulrey, John Molsbaugh, Elias Dicky, Philip Wampler, and D. Summer, reported as follows:

ART. 30. Who are the proper persons in the church to administer the ordinance recorded by James (v. 14)? Considered, the bishops, or ordained elders.

ART. 31. Is there any second order in the church, who may administer the above ordinance in cases of great and pressing necessity, when the proper administrators can not be had in time for the urgency of the case? Considered, in such case, brethren in less office, if at least one of them is authorized to baptize, might serve.

ART. 32. May the above ordinance be administered to a person who is not a member of the church, although solemnly believing in the healing virtues of the above, both spiritual and bodily, and requesting the church; such person being in a dangerous situation, having shown fruits of repentance, and perfect willingness, if spared, to bow under the order of the church? Considered, that it could not be done, but that we are to direct them to the grace and mercy of God.

The ninth committee, consisting of Brethren Daniel Miller, of Ohio, Philip Ramer, Martin Miller, John Pfoutz, and John Eller, reported as follows:

ART. 33. Whether members, who have been put in avoidance, can be released without their request? Considered, that they can not.

ART. 14. Would it not be better, and more correspondent with the gospel, if the brethren would hold the Lord's Supper more in unison with each other; for it appears that some have bread and cheese, and some have meat and soup, etc.? Considered, that uniformity would be better.

ART. 35. If a brother transgress, so as to be deemed guilty of avoidance, should he not be cited to appear before the church, in the presence of the witnesses, to hear the testimony given? Considered, that he ought to be particularly requested to attend.

Art. 36. In case such member be found guilty, by whom should he be informed? Concluded, that this is a duty incumbent on the ordained brethren.

Art. 37. If it is proven, by two or three brethren, that a brother has been drinking to excess, yet not so much as to disable him from keeping on his feet, but has often before been charged, and also before been set back or put in avoidance, and still denies the charge, would he not come under the class of drunkards, or would it be prudent to hold him as a brother, or should he be expelled by the proof of four or five witnesses, though not members of the church? Considered, that no member should be put in avoidance without positive proof, from members, that he or she has been guilty of one of those sins mentioned by Paul (I. Cor. v. 11).

Art. 38. Have we a sufficient right, according to the gospel, to put a man in avoidance who has already been put back from the kiss, the communion, and the council, and disowned as a brother? Considered, that the church has the power to do so.

The eleventh committee, consisting of Brethren Daniel Jordan, Abraham Witmer, Jacob Metzger, Abraham Flory, and John Roberts, reported as follows:

Art. 39. How is it considered, when there is a regular meeting in rotation in a district, and a meeting is requested by people who are yet without the church, regularly every four or six weeks? Considered, that a meeting may be held at the house of any one that is friendly to the Brethren, on his request, if not interfering with other appointments.

Art. 40. Whether an ordained brother, who had been once in avoidance, can be restored again to his full office? Considered, that a brother can be restored again to his full office by the voice of the church (as in a choice).

Art. 41. A request for a committee to be appointed and sent to investigate a difficulty existing in the Mansfield

congregation. Considered, that this meeting sees fit to nominate Brethren John Frantz, Daniel Jordan, John Molsbaugh, and John Shoemaker, as the committee for that purpose.

The twelfth committee, consisting of Brethren John Shively, Michel Myer, Chr. Wise, Rudolph Mohler, and Jacob Studybecker, reported as follows:

Art. 42. Is it consistent with the gospel for the brethren to recommend to the churches a day of fasting, to be observed annually, and to have it published in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting? Considered, inasmuch as the gospel teaches us to fast and pray, to always pray, and never faint; and the Great Teacher says, a certain species of evil spirits can not be cast out but by fasting and prayer, we hope that every Christian shepherd will teach his flock to pray and fast oftener than once a year, as we do not know the time when he that goeth about as a roaring lion may tempt or deceive us.

Art. 43. Why is it, that on our yearly visits, we ask the husband of a sister, who himself is not a member of the church, if he knows any thing against any member; yet we are not to receive his evidence in council against a member? Considered, that it is true, what Paul says, "What have I to do with those out of the church?" yet this does not prevent us from that which is no more than an act of courtesy toward the husband of a beloved sister in the Lord. (See Phil. iv. 8.)

Art. 44. A request from the brethren in northern Indiana for the Annual Meeting of 1852. Considered, to be left for decision of next Annual Meeting.

In conclusion, it is to be repeated, that our next Annual Meeting will be, God willing, at the Brick meeting-house, near New Hope, Augusta County, Virginia, to begin on Saturday before Pentecost, A. D. 1851. Addresses to be made, if necessary, to Bro. John Gerber, New Hope, or

Bro. Peter Miller, Mount Sidney, all in Augusta County, Virginia.

The business of this meeting being disposed of, a song of praise was sung, and the meeting closed, as usual, with prayer.

Signed by the following elders:

The general committee--George Hoke, Peter Nead, James Tracey, Samuel Gerber, Joseph Gerber, John Brower, Benj. Bowman, Daniel Yundt, Dan. Bernhard.

Other elders—Jacob Miller, of St. Joseph, Geo. Hoover, David Hardman, John Myer, J. Leatherman, John Shively, Henry Neff, John Hart, Joseph Harter, David Miller, of St. Joseph.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1851.

Friday evening the traveling brethren arrived in the neighborhood, and on Saturday morning public worship began, and was continued until Sunday afternoon, under a great press of the people. On Monday and Tuesday the business of the council-meeting was taken in hand, and gone through. The chief points, which occurred, were as follows:

Article 1. A letter from East Tennessee, Knob Creek Church, concerning a confusion and division in that church. Concluded, that a committee should be appointed by the Yearly Meeting, to go to East Tennessee, to assist the brethren there in adjusting their difficulties; and that this committee, and others of the same character, should be appointed by the general committee.

The following brethren were appointed for this business, viz.: Benj. Bowman, John Hershberger, John Kline, and Daniel Brower, all of Rockingham, and Benj. Moomaw, of Roanoke, Virginia.

Art. 2. A query, whether it is right to burden brethren with paying postage, for letters sent by mail, they being not interested in the same? Considered, that brethren should pay postage in advance, when sending letters to get information for their own benefit, in all cases.

Art. 3. A query, whether it is right for brethren to dismiss the congregation, by pronouncing a blessing over the people? Considered, that inasmuch as we have neither command, nor example, from our great High Priest and his apostles, of pronouncing a blessing upon the people, and inasmuch as preachers are as needy of blessings as their hearers, for which we ask in our prayers, after sermon, we would deem it more unassuming, and more agreeable to humility, to follow the footsteps of our ancient brethren, as they followed Christ.

Art. 4. A request, from brethren in Shelby County, Ohio, for a committee to examine into the proceedings of the Logan Church in a case of excommunication. Concluded, that Brethren George Shively and Joseph Showalter, of Stark, John Molsbaugh, of Knox, John Shoemaker, of Mohegan, and Jacob Kurtz, of Wayne County, be a committee to visit said churches in Logan and Shelby.

Art. 5. A letter about the difficulties in Salomony Church, Indiana. Concluded, that Brethren John Miller, of Elkhart, Henry Neff, of Turkey Creek, Dav. Shoemaker, of Huntingdon, Nichol. Frantz, of Eel River, Abraham Moss and John Bowman, of Wayne County, be a committee to visit said church.

Art. 6. A query concerning the ordaining of elders. Considered, that the ordination of elders is of the utmost importance to the church, and should always be under the special guidance of the Holy Spirit, who will teach and remind a church of the right person and the proper time for ordination; that there should be a full union of the church, and the elders present, on the subject; and that where there is any serious objection, according to the word

of God (see I. Tim. III. 1–7; Titus I. 7), the elders and the church should be cautious to proceed, if the objection could not be removed.

ART. 7. Should brethren have the privilege to put up lightning-rods? Considered, that we would not advise brethren to do so; nor would we say to those who have them, to take them down; but advise all our dear brethren to bear with each other in such matters, and try to put their chief trust in God.

ART. 8. What is the opinion of the Yearly Meeting, with regard to having a paper published, under the title, "The Monthly Gospel Visitor?" Considered, at this council, that we will not forbid Bro. Henry Kurtz to go on with the paper for one year; and that all the brethren or churches will impartially examine the "Gospel Visitor," and if found wrong, or injurious, let them send in their objections at the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 9. Would it not be better to alter the plan of holding our Annual Meeting, so as to have no public preaching, but only a church council-meeting? Considered, that at this time we would make no more alteration but this, that instead of meeting on Friday, and having public meeting on Saturday and Sunday, we will come together on Saturday evening, and meeting to commence on Sunday morning, and to be no communion meeting at the place of the Annual Meeting; the council-meeting then to commence on Tuesday morning.

ART. 10. Would it be proper to reconsider the forty-second query of 1850, or was it correctly answered? Considered correctly answered.

ART. 11. An appeal to this Yearly Meeting, from White Oak Church, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to appoint a committee to investigate, and, if possible, to settle the difficulties existing there. Considered, to grant the request, and to appoint Brethren Andrew Spanogle, Peter Long, and Samuel Lehman, of Pennsylvania, and Philip

Boyle and Daniel P. Sayler, of Maryland, to be the committee.

Art. 12. Whether it is according to the gospel for brethren to administer the communion to a sick or disabled member, in the daytime, and without celebrating the other ordinances connected with it? Considered, not to be according to the gospel.

Art. 13. A complaint from Sister Brand, of Frederick County, Virginia. Considered, that Brethren Benj. Bowman, Peter Miller, John Wine, Samuel Wampler, and Jacob Biser, be a committee to visit the church, in which the sister and members concerned live, and investigate the matter.

Art. 14. Whether it would be contrary to our profession, and the doctrine of Christ, to make contributions to, or become members of, the American Colonization Society, with the view of the furtherance of the liberty of the African race? Considered, that a person may contribute to the society, but not become a member.

Art. 15. How is it considered, for brethren to appoint meetings for prayer exclusively? Considered, that the brethren can not recommend such meetings, as a general thing, except in cases of peril; but, on the other hand, they consider it a duty and privilege to pray in our families, and in the closet, and other secret places, as well as to join the public prayer in our regular meetings for worship.

Art. 16. How is it considered for brethren, that hold prayer-meetings, and invite others, that are of a different belief, to take part in prayer, and call them brethren? Considered utterly wrong for brethren to do so.

Art. 17. Whether the form of words used in the ordinance of baptism, as laid down at the Annual Meeting, A. D. 1848, could not be reconsidered? Considered, to leave it as the minutes of 1848 have it.

Art. 18. Would it not be advisable for the brethren, assembled in Annual Meeting, to establish certain well-estab-

lished, ordained elders, and send them, two by two, to visit certain districts appointed to them, etc.? The decision to lay over till next year.

Art. 19. How are the brethren, when called upon, to proceed in holding funeral services? Considered, that according to the general and ancient practice of the brethren, we would advise, that, in all cases, the services should be begun and concluded by singing and prayer.

Art. 20. Whether it is according to the gospel, to let any of our poor members go to the county poor-house? Considered, that we know of no passage in the gospel authorizing this, but of many, where the duty of the church is expressly enjoined, to support their poor members, and, if not able, to ask aid from neighboring churches.

Art. 21. Whether a minister, or any other member, has a right, according to Paul's treating on self-examination, after being seated at the communion-table, to order from the table any brother or sister; or whether Paul's sentiment is to leave the member, or members, until after the communion, and then take them into the council of the church? Considered, inasmuch as the Apostle Paul writes (I. Cor. xi. 29): "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself," we think that no member should be permitted to remain at the communion-table, when he, or she, is known, to a member of the church, to have been guilty of a violation of the order of the house of God.

Art. 22. How do the brethren, in general, pass the kiss at the communion-table? Is it to the brother who sits at the administrator's right or left? Considered, that we see no difference; but leave it to the administrator, as he sees proper, or as circumstances will admit.

Art. 23. Is it right for our teachers to enter up into pulpits, in other denominations' meeting-houses, and teach there? Considered, that brethren should give no offense, neither to Jew nor Gentile, nor to the church of Christ;

but we would advise brethren not to go up, when they can avoid it, as the brethren had considered once before.

Art. 24. With regard to the twenty-eighth query, in 1849, a more definite answer is required, how far a brother may go, in order to recover indemnification for losses sustained from a railroad, turnpike, and the like, passing through his land. Considered, that we might use the provision of the law; that is, petition the court for what it will make, as damages, but should use no violence, by putting the law in force, for a recompense.

Art. 25. How shall the brethren at Beaver Dam, Maryland, proceed with the money willed by Bro. John Gerber, deceased, to be distributed among the various churches that have need in the different states? It is the advice of the assembled brethren, that Bro. Daniel P. Sayler (his address is Middleburg, Carroll County, Maryland) be appointed a general corresponding agent, George Hoke and John P. Ebersole, agents for the north part, and Peter Nead and John Brower, for the south part of Ohio; Abraham Moss for the south, and Jacob Miller, of St. Joseph, for the north part of Indiana; Joseph Emmert for Illinois, and adjacent states; Benj. Bowman for the north, and Abraham Neff for the south parts of Virginia, Carolina, and Tennessee; Jac. Meyer, of Somerset, for western Pennsylvania; Andrew Spanogle for the part of Pennsylvania, east of the Alleghany and west of Susquehanna; and Christ. Langenecker for Pennsylvania, east of Susquehanna and New Jersey, to report to Daniel P. Sayler, as soon as convenient, the number of churches, and where situated, who are the elders of them, and where there is help necessary. It is further our advice that the above brethren shall report to the committee of the Annual Meeting, every year, how much of said money, and where it was distributed.

Finally, with regard to the next Annual Meeting, there was but one invitation from our brethren in northern Indiana, for the meeting in 1852, and two invitations for that

in 1853—one from our brethren on Beaver Dam, and the other from our brethren in Washington County, all in Maryland; and it was concluded, that our next Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1852, should be, God willing, in Turkey Creek church, at the place of Jonathan Weiland, five miles south of Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana. Letters on the subject to be addressed to Jacob Miller, or James Tracey, South Bend, Indiana, or to John Miller and Henry Neff, Goshen, Indiana. Also, concluded, that the Yearly Meeting, in 1853, should be at the Beaver Dam meeting-house, Frederick County, Maryland. Letters to be addressed to Jacob Sayler, Johnsville, Frederick County, or Daniel P. Sayler, Middleburg, Carroll County, Maryland.

In conclusion, all united in praises to God for the signal blessings, and especially for the harmony and love, which prevailed throughout the whole meeting.

Signed, in behalf of the meeting, by the committee of elders—George Hoke, John Bowman, John Letherman, Christian Longenecker, John Kline, D. P. Sayler, Dan. Brower, Jam. H. Tracey, Jacob Meyer, Henry Kurtz.

First Committee—Daniel Yundt, Christ. Wenger, Mich. Petry, John P. Ebersole, Abr. Flory, L. Furrey.

Second Committee—Peter Nead, Dan. Hollinger, James Tabler, Adam Brown, Jacob Tomer, John Wine.

Third Committee—John Wine, Jacob Sommers, John Brubacher, Benj. Byerly, John Deardorff, John Ogg.

Fourth Committee—John Hershberger, Benj. Moomaw, David Bock, Jacob Miller, of Logan, Jacob Miller, of Rockingham, Jacob Guth.

Fifth Committee—Peter Nininger, John Garber, David Brandt, Abr. Grabill, Mich. Emmert, Daniel Senger, Dan. Brower, of Ohio.

Sixth Committee—Abraham Neff, Peter Miller, Christ. Wise, Thomas Clark, jun., David Rothrock, Jacob Brubacher.

Seventh Committee—Abraham Maas, Benj. Bowman, Jac. Biser, Jacob Ebersole, Jacob Wine, Will. George.

Eighth Committee—Jacob Miller, of Portage, Thomas Clark, sen., David Rinehart, Abraham Knopp, Jacob Heman, David Beeghly, Isaac Miller.

Ninth Committee—John Miller, of Elkhart, George Schafer, George Bear, Daniel Keller, Jac. Mehring, Martin Gerber.

Tenth Committee—John Molsbaugh, James Kelso, Jac. Brower, Christ. Rupp, Will. Angle, David Kline.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1852.

According to appointment of last year, the brethren began to assemble on Saturday, and on account of quite a large congregation being collected, public worship was commenced that afternoon, and continued on Sunday from 9 o'clock in the morning till late in the afternoon. On Monday morning, before public worship, the Yearly Meeting was organized by a general committee being chosen, which then retired and received the papers sent in, while public worship was continued. Monday evening the papers were distributed among eleven committees, and on Tuesday morning, the 1st of June, the general council commenced, as usual, with singing, exhortation, and prayer. The following points came up at this time for consideration, in the fear of God:

Article 1. Proceedings of a council-meeting, held November 22, 1851, in Adams County, Illinois, by the brethren known as Western Brethren, with propositions for a reunion with the body of our brotherhood, represented in this meeting. After the differences having been stated, and considerable conversation had on the subject, it was finally concluded, that this meeting does not feel satisfied

how a full and true union can be obtained on the propositions made by the Western Brethren, and that therefore this matter should be postponed until the dear brethren in the West become better acquainted still with the grounds of our practice; and meanwhile we should exercise charity and Christian love toward them.

Art. 2. A letter from Jefferson County, Iowa, referring to the differences existing between the brethren, called the Western brethren, and those of our brethren settled around and among them, from the East, and wishing to be guided in their intercourse with them by the counsel of this meeting. Considered, as answered by the foregoing decision.

Art. 3. Have we a right to help make the political government, and to serve as officers, also, to put the law in force against any of our fellow-men, in any case whatever? Considered, that the brethren should be careful, and not betray their profession in helping to make and serve the civil government, and, if they give in their vote, they should do it in a quiet and peaceable manner, without taking part in electioneering, and return immediately from the ground; that brethren should hold no office under the civil government that would cause them to betray their faith; and as respects using the law against our fellow creatures, brethren should use lenity and Christian forbearance toward our fellow-men, and not compel them by the law, unless prompted so to do by stern necessity. But before so doing they should always take the counsel of the church.

Art. 4. In regard to the continuation of the "Gospel Visitor," it was concluded, that inasmuch as there is a diversity of opinion upon the subject—some in favor, and others opposed—we can not forbid its publication at this time, and hope those brethren opposed to it will exercise forbearance, and let it stand or fall, on its own merits.

Art. 5. Respecting the publication of the names of the special committees in the minutes, it was considered advisable not to insert so many names.

ART. 6. Whether it would not be advisable to read the proceedings of the meeting at the conclusion of the same meeting? Considered, unnecessary, inasmuch as they are read again and again, one by one. But that the elders of each district should procure a copy of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, and have the same read before their respective churches, and preserve the same for reference.

ART. 7. With regard to sending traveling brethren, according to Art. 18 of last year's minutes, it was concluded, that every church, and even members, have the privilege to call on the Yearly Meeting, or otherwise, for brethren to visit them.

ART. 8. Whether the commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. XXVIII. 19, 20; Mark XVI. 15) does not require of the church to send brethren to preach the gospel, where the name of Christ is not known? Considered, that the brethren acknowledge the great commission of Christ to its full extent, and that it is the duty of the church, the ministers, and every private member, to do all that is in their power to fulfill that commission in accordance with apostolic practice.

ART. 9. What is the duty of a bishop, who has the oversight of an adjoining congregation, in which there is no householder, and only one speaker, and has that church liberty to call elders, and have a bishop or speaker appointed? Considered, that it is the duty of a bishop to attend to the necessities of such church, and if he neglects his duty, such church, if unanimous, may call other elders to assist them.

ART. 10. Has a brother, who is a speaker, a right to go to so-called spiritual rappings, and ask such questions as these: "Are the ordinances of the gospel essential to salvation?" "Are certain deceased relatives happy?" etc., and to invite the so-called medium into his neighborhood, who thereupon calls at such brother's house, and neigh-

bors, and also members, attend there, asking and receiving information from such medium? How is such a brother to be dealt with, according to gospel? Considered, that such rappings are a lying wonder and delusion, and that these things have been strongly forbidden, both in the Old and New Testament, as the works of the devil. (See Deut. XVIII. 9–16; Lev. XIX. 31, XX. 6, 27; Is. VIII. 19, 20; Acts XVI. 16–18; Luke XI. 14; II. Thess. II. 9–11; Rev. XIII. 13.) And where any brother goes so far as stated above, he should be admonished, and ought to make satisfactory acknowledgments to the church, and all the members should be earnestly admonished to have nothing to do with it, and totally to debar it from among them.

ART. 11. Has a brother a right to have or keep in his house costly musical instruments? Considered, that members could lay out their money to a better advantage.

ART. 12. How is it considered by the brethren, if brethren aid and assist in building great houses for high schools, and send their children to the same? Considered, that brethren should be very cautious and not mind high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Rom. XII. 16.

ART. 13. How it is considered, for a laboring brother in the gospel, to attend to store-keeping, or for brethren to sell their farms and go in for store-keeping? Considered, that brethren should not do so, and least of all, the laboring brethren.

ART. 14. How is it considered, when brethren do any kind of servile work on the Sabbath or Lord's-day? Considered, that brethren should by no means do any servile work on the Christian Sabbath day, nor engage in sporting, such as fishing, hunting, etc. And in case members will do so, they should be visited in the name of the church, and heartily admonished to do so no more, and if they should persist in so doing, they should be dealt with as offenders. (That necessary labors, such as feeding and watering creatures, preparing food for the family, and the like, form an exception, is obvious)

ART. 15. The committee appointed last year to visit Salamony Church, in this state (Indiana), in order to settle the difficulties there, reported that they could not yet accomplish the object of their apointment, but that there was now a prospect of doing it, and request some more brethren to be added. Concluded, that this committee should be reappointed, with the addition of James Tracey, of Elkhart, and Jacob Miller, of Portage.

ART. 16. Request of a committee to go to Tiffin Church, Seneca County, Ohio, concerning a sister whose husband left her, and she remained thus forsaken for seven years, but has now got a bill of divorce, and is married again. The following brethren were proposed and appointed a committee to investigate and settle this business: Joseph Showalter, of Stark County; John Molsbaugh, of Knox; John Shoemaker, of Mohegan; Elias Dicky, of Ashland, and Jacob Kurtz, of Wayne County—all in Ohio.

ART. 17. How are churches to proceed in the following case? A brother being cut off from the church with an excluded party, and afterward becomes guilty of adultery. Considered, to hold him as the church does such party. See I. Cor. v. 13: "But them that are without, God judgeth."

ART. 18. Whether members have a right, by the gospel, to go begging for money through the different churches? Considered, that they have no right, according to the gospel, and where there are poor members that are in a suffering condition, it is the duty of the church in which they live to see to it, and to supply their wants, and if that church is not able to support them, the church has a right to apply to the neighboring churches for help, and not the brother that is in want.

ART. 19. How is it considered, if a brother is legally expelled from the church, and afterward is taken sick, when he calls for the brethren, and requests of them to be anointed, and the brethren do anoint him, knowing that he

is excluded from the church? Considered, that according to gospel, we have no right to anoint such as are not in fellowship with the church. The Word (See James v.) goes only to the faithful.

Art. 20. Are persons, who can be up and about, and go to meeting, proper subjects to receive the anointing, or has the apostle only reference to such who are altogether confined? Considered, that the apostle has only alluded to those who are sick or in a decline of life.

Art. 21. Is it agreeable to the sense of the word, that the anointing should be performed more than once in the same illness or confinement? Considered, that no person should be anointed more than once in the same sickness, according to our understanding of the word of God.

Art. 22. If a member leaves the church and joins another denomination, and after a while leaves that denomination and makes application to be received back into the church again, has the church a right to receive that member again? Considered, that by acknowledging his or her fault, and giving satisfaction to the church, he may be received again.

Art. 23. Is it right for brethren to take an active part in the construction of public works, such as railroads, turnpikes, plank-roads, and canals, and thereby are instrumental in damaging the property of many citizens? Considered, that brethren ought not to take an active part in any public work, to the injury of private property, but always should do as they would wish to be done unto, and not be entangled with the affairs of this world. II. Tim. II. 4.

Art. 24. Have we a right to refuse the salutation of the holy kiss to a brother that is intoxicated with strong drink, or to one that is unclean by the intemperate use of tobacco? Considered, that no brother could be censured if he refuses to salute a brother intoxicated, or unclean with using tobacco or strong drink.

Art. 25. A call for a committee to be sent to Jonathan's Creek, Ohio. The following brethren were appointed for the business: John Molsbaugh, John Shoemaker, of Mohegan, John P. Ebersole, Jacob Kurtz, and Henry Davy.

Art. 26. A request for a committee to visit two church districts in Montgomery County, Ohio. The request was granted by nominating Benjamin Bowman and David Hardman, of Indiana; Daniel Miller, of Preble; George Butterbaugh, of Miami; John Frantz, of Clark; Michel Meyer, of Montgomery, and Abraham Miller, of Allen—all in Ohio.

Art. 27. Is it according to the gospel to receive a man into the church, belonging to the order of Odd Fellows? Considered, that it is not, unless he is willing to withdraw from and renounce that order.

Art. 28. A request from the church between Salem and Union, Montgomery County, Ohio, for the assistance of a committee. This request was also granted, by appointing George Hoover, of Henry; George W. Studybecker, Daniel Miller, of Four-Mile, John Shively and Martin Cable, all of Indiana, to be said committee.

Art. 29. The following was also proposed and adopted: This meeting would advise, that every church, before the time of the Annual Meeting, should take counsel, and select brethren to represent them in Annual Meeting, and also counsel whether they have any thing to send, and if so, that they pass the counsel of the church, and put every question on a paper by itself, and state from what church, and sign it, and fold it, and write on the back of it briefly what the question is. Thus it should be handed in or sent by mail. Brethren who would bring questions otherwise than in the above way, should come before the committee, and state the question, and the reason why they could not counsel the church, else the question can not be received. (The object of this is chiefly to concentrate the business of the meeting, which otherwise could not be gone through in so short a time as two or three days.)

Art. 30. A petition, signed by more than seventy members, for a committee to investigate the case of Daniel Zook, of Snake Spring Valley, Pennsylvania. Granted, by appointing Peter Long, of Perry; Andrew Spanogle, of Huntingdon, and Jacob Meyer, of Somerset County, all in Pennsylvania, and Joseph Arnold and Jacob Biser, of Hampshire County, Virginia, to be said committee.

Art. 31. Regarding our next Annual Meeting, the invitation was repeated by our dear brethren at Beaver Dam, Maryland, for next year, and a new invitation laid in from the Aughwick Church, Pennsylvania, for the year after next; and it was concluded, that our next Yearly Meeting should be, God willing, on Pentecost, 1853, with our beloved brethren in Beaver Dam church, Maryland, and inasmuch as it has been granted to our Western brethren to have the Yearly Meeting every second year, it was agreed, that if they do not make a request, particularly urging, our dear Aughwich brethren shall have the first claim for the Yearly Meeting in 1854.

Letters concerning next Annual Meeting may be addressed to either of the following brethren: Jacob Sayler or Isaac Pfoutz, Johnsville, Frederick County, Maryland, or Daniel P. Sayler, Middleburg, Carroll County, Maryland. It was also stated that brethren coming from a distance by railroad should make Monrovia, Frederick County, Maryland, their stopping-place, where a brother will be in attendance at the depot, and conveyances provided to bring the brethren to the place of meeting.

Finally, the meeting was closed with prayer and praise on Wednesday afternoon, about 4 o'clock

Signed by the committee, George Hoke, Geo. Shively, Jos. Emmert, John Kline, Dan. Bernhart, D. P. Sayler, Ben. Bowman, D. Miller, H. Kurtz.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1853.

The following points had been presented, and were considered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. Whether it would not give more general satisfaction, in the arrangement of the standing committee, to select them, by ballot, out of the whole number of ordained brethren present? Considered, unanimously, to make no change, in this matter, from the ancient and present usage, viz., that the elders of the church, where the Yearly Meeting is held, should have the privilege, as heretofore, to nominate said committee.

Art. 2. Whether it is necessary to abide by the twenty-ninth article of last year's minutes, with regard to indorsing the letters on the outside, whether they contained queries or not? Concluded, unanimously, that this article be so altered that only the word query, and how many queries? be indorsed on the outside.

Art. 3. In regard to the fourth query of last year's minutes, concerning the "Gospel Visitor?" Inasmuch as the "Visitor" is a private undertaking of its editor, we unanimously conclude that this meeting should not any further interfere with it.

Art. 4. Is it consistent with the gospel and its principles, as professed by our brotherhood, when a brother is chosen to the ministry only, not being authorized to baptize, that the ordained elder of the congregation should forward such brother, without consulting the church? Considered, that all the power under God is vested in the church, and that, therefore, the church should, in all such cases, be consulted.

Art. 5. Is it right for brethren to have intoxicating liquors at public sales? Considered as wrong, that it should not be so at all, nor at any other gathering.

Art. 6. Is it right for brethren to take a dram in public, when in perfect health? We are of opinion that it has the

appearance of evil, and should not be indulged in, or partaken of at all, as a beverage.

Art. 7. How it is considered, when a brother lets his beard grow awhile, and afterward cuts it off, or trims it according to the fashion of the world? The committee was of the opinion, that if a brother lets his beard grow, in honor of his profession, that he should not cut it off, nor, by any means, to trim it in conformity to the fashions of the world. (See Rom. xii.). This was adopted.

Art. 8. How shall we proceed, in case we have a love-feast, and a sister, or sisters, come from another congregation to our love-feast, who wear ear-rings or jewels; whether we have a right to take them in council, and, if not willing to lay them off, whether we are privileged to keep them from the communion-table? The committee was decidedly of opinion that as it is positively forbidden by Holy Writ (see I. Peter iii. 3; I. Tim. ii. 9), it should not be tolerated, except in cases of actual necessity; and that the church, where such members propose to participate in the communion, has the right to take them into council, and if they are not willing to be admonished, to advise them to withdraw till they are willing to sacrifice those forbidden things.

Art. 9. Concerning slavery. How shall any branch of the church proceed, in case an individual wishes to become a member, who is in possession of a slave or slaves, and the law of the state in which they reside is such that they can not manumit them in safety, without transporting them beyond its limits; and as we are aware that the several states where slavery does not exist are contemplating and passing strenuous laws, prohibiting their emigration thither, etc., it seems indispensably necessary for us to adopt some other plan than hitherto practiced, in order that the church should be kept clear from the evils of slavery, and that such persons may be enabled to come into Christ's kingdom? The questions involved were considered too important, and

therefore concluded to intrust this matter to a committee, to report thereon as soon as possible, the committee to consist of the following brethren: Joseph Arnold and Benj. Moomaw, of Virginia, John M. Umstad, Sam. Lehman, Isaac Price, and David Bosserman, of Pennsylvania, and Daniel P. Sayler and Henry Koons, of Maryland.

Art. 10. A request from the church in Williams County, Ohio, for a visit, in order to settle difficulties among the leading members of said church. It was concluded to appoint a committee, consisting of Jacob Miller, of Portage, Indiana; Abraham Miller, of Allen, John P. Ebersole, of Seneca, and Elias Dicky, of Ashland, all in Ohio.

Art. 11. What is the most proper or scriptural mode of ordaining an elder or bishop—by the voice of the church, over whom the elder is to be ordained, or by the wish or declaration of the elders or bishops of neighboring churches? Answered by referring to the minutes of 1851, Art. 6.

Art. 12. Could there not much good be done in the noble work of spreading the gospel by advising such brethren wishing to emigrate westward to locate themselves where they are most needed? Considered, that we can do no more but recommend to brethren-teachers moving to the West, to take this into serious consideration.

Art. 13. Could not the brethren adopt a plan to hold the Yearly Meetings in such a manner that public preaching might be held in the neighborhood around, and not at the place for council? Concluded, to make no change for the present.

Art. 14. How is it considered for a man, who is a brother, to purchase a man or woman that is a slave, upon condition that such slave shall be free, or emancipated, after serving the purchaser a certain number of years, agreed upon by the slave and his purchaser, without consulting the church? Considered, that no brother should do so without the counsel of the church; and we believe the better way would be to have nothing at all to do with slavery in no shape or form whatever.

ART. 15. How would the brethren hold a teacher that had preached that there was no such a being as a devil, and that there was no serpent that beguiled Eve in the garden of Eden; that it was only the lust that tempted her, and every one; but, after being admonished, promised not to teach nor argue said doctrine, yet still harbors the same belief? Considered, that such teacher was admonished right, that he should not preach such doctrine; and if he should still persist in holding such sentiments, the brethren could not hold him as a teacher, or even as a member. He should be admonished to search the Scriptures, which are able to make him wise unto salvation.

ART. 16. Concerning going to law. Considered, that it should be left as it was decided last year. (See Minutes of 1852, Art. 3).

ART. 17. Concerning going to political meetings and elections. Considered best not to attend any such at all, inasmuch as the true Christian belongs to another kingdom.

ART. 18. Concerning brethren going security for dealers in ardent spirits, in getting their license to sell the same. Considered, that brethren should by no means do so.

ART. 19. Concerning brethren purchasing and drawing lottery-tickets. Considered, that brethren should not have any thing at all to do with this, or any other species of gambling.

ART. 20. Whether brethren should observe days of fasting, appointed by the President of the United States, or the governors of the respective states in which we live? Considered, that brethren should pray always, and not faint, and also to fast as often as practicable. But, considering Rom. XIII. 1–7, and also XIV. 5, 6, it should be left optional with the churches and members to observe such days, or not, as they are "fully persuaded in their own minds."

ART. 21. Have we a right to put away the lamb at the Lord's Supper, and use beef in the place thereof? Considered, that we would rather see a lamb prepared; but in-

asmuch as Christ has made us free from the ceremonial law, and as there is no command in the New Testament that it must be so, we should bear with each other in love in such matters.

Art. 22. In case a brother would be seen in a trespass against the gospel by one brother, at one day, and in a similar one by another brother the next day, and again in a like trespass by a third brother at another time, whether these three witnesses are sufficient to establish the trespass? Considered, that the testimony is sufficient to convict the brother, and that he should be dealt with according to the gospel.

Art. 23. Does the answer to the tenth query, as it stands on the minutes of 1846, only forbid the grandeur of paintings and carpets, or does it forbid them altogether? We consider the advice of our brethren in 1846 sufficiently clear.

Art. 24. Is it right to give a certificate to a brother, when he moves out of the church district without paying his debts, or giving general satisfaction to his creditors? Considered, that if the church is satisfied of the brother's having been honest, and having done all that he could to pay his debts and satisfy his creditors, he ought to have a certificate. But should the brother be able, and not willing to pay his debts, or give, or try to give, satisfaction to his creditors, he should by no means have a certificate of full membership in the church.

Art. 25. How is it considered, when brethren hold prayer-meetings decently and in order? Considered, that every brother should meet daily with his family, for worship in his own house; that when brethren meet together, accidentally or by appointment, they are at perfect liberty to sing and pray together, read the Scriptures, and exhort each other, all of which should be done decently and in order; but we would advise our brethren to drop the name of prayer-meeting, and call them simply meetings.

Art. 28. How one arm of the church shall proceed to-

ward another, in case of a departure from the general order of the church? Considered, that inasmuch as all the arms of the church are but one body in Christ, and each arm stands in the same relation to the other as an individual member stands to the other individual member; and inasmuch as an individual is not only at liberty, but commanded to go to his brother, if that brother has done something by which he considers himself grieved, in order to gain his brother to an arm of the church, feeling aggrieved at proceedings in and by another arm, has not only a right, but also a solemn duty to do likewise, and to do it either by going or writing to such arm.

Art. 27. Whether it is allowed for brethren to distill fruit, or get it distilled, and sell the liquor? We say, No, not at all.

Art. 28. Is it right for a brother to go to college, or teach the same? Considered, that we would deem colleges a very unsafe place for a simple follower of Christ, inasmuch as they are calculated to lead us astray from the faith and obedience to the gospel.

Art. 29. Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to go to the county and state fairs, exhibiting property, or otherwise taking part in the same? Considered, as quite unbecoming and improper for pilgrims being found there. We should remember poor Christian at Vanity Fair.

Art. 30. How is it considered when brethren preach a doctrine, which is not in accordance with the decision of the Yearly Meeting, and speak privately to or with members against such decisions? Considered, that for love and union sake they ought not to do so.

Art. 31. Can a brother be judged by testimony from without the church, if he denies the charge? Considered, that he can not. (See Minutes of 1837, Art. 2).

Art. 32. When an ordained brother sues, or causes to be sued, a brother in an adjoining church, where is the case to be investigated? Considered, that it is to be investigated in the church where the ordained brother lives.

Art. 33. Is it right to discuss moral questions in our meeting-houses? Considered, that our brethren had better keep the houses, built for the worship of God, exclusively for that special purpose.

Art. 34. How is it considered when a brother goes to law, in order to collect money due to him, and other brethren justify him in it, and even speakers can see no wrong in it, and are opposed to having it brought before the church? Considered, that it is not in accordance with the gospel to make use of the law to collect money, and that it is wrong for brethren to justify it, and still more wrong for speakers to oppose its being brought before the church.

Art. 33. How is it considered when churches, having no overseer, call upon those old brethren, who have an oversight over them, to come and assist them in weighty matters, and they do not attend? Considered, that such elders ought to attend, and if they do not, the church may call on other elders to assist them. (See Minutes of 1852, Art. 9).

Art. 36. How is it considered when a brother, at a love-feast, or meeting where dinners are given, having been at the first table, where a blessing was asked, and thanks returned orderly, afterward rises, and returns thanks at the second or third table? Considered, that it had better not been done

Art. 37. As regards testimony between members, where two of the brethren's children testify in the same case, but contradict each other; the one brother's child being a member, the other not, but of good moral character. Considered, that all other things being equal, we take the testimony of a brother or member.

Art. 38. Is a church justifiable in expelling a member for the crime of drunkenness, so long as members generally continue in the custom, whereby men are made drunkards? Considered, as drunkenness comes directly from moderate drinking, therefore every church should keep the advice of the Yearly Meeting, to use no intoxicating drinks as a bev-

erage, and then they can consistently disown the brother.

Art. 39. Would it not be more consistent with the gospel, and the practice of the apostles, to extend the kiss, termed the holy kiss and the kiss of charity, to each other only when coming together and separating from each other, and not at feet-washing and the communion; or did our Lord and Master indeed institute such a thing in that night in which he was betrayed? Considered, that we feel perfect liberty in the gospel, to continue as we always heretofore have done.

Art. 40. Report from Jonathan's Creek Church, in Ohio, and repeated request for a new committee. Request granted; and Brethren Geo. Shively, from Stark County, John Shoemaker, of Mohegan, John P. Ebersole, of Seneca, John Molsbaugh, of Knox, Jacob Kurtz, of Wayne, and Henry Davy, of Delaware County, Ohio, appointed to be said committee.

Art. 41. Whether, in holding a choice for a teacher, after taking the voice of the church, there ought not to be lots cast between the two highest? Considered, that the practice of the church, generally, is to receive him who has the highest number of voices.

Art. 42. If a person makes application to be received into the church, and believes that the wicked will be totally burned up, can he be received with that faith or not? Considered, that persons should, in the first place, be taught the principles of the gospel, and then be baptized on his faith, showing forth fruits of repentance.

Art. 43. Concerning anointing the sick with oil. Considered, that it should be administered according to the manner laid down by the brethren in the minutes of 1844, to be re-printed now again, if there is room left.

Art. 44. How it is considered when choices are held for teachers or deacons, in a different manner from the general usage, choosing by ballot, in presence of all the church, and without ordained elders from other churches being

present? Considered, that a choice should be held by each and every member coming before the elders, and giving their voice privately. The presence of two, or at least one ordained elder, from another church, has been deemed necessary always, so as to avoid the least appearance of partiality, etc.

Art. 45. Inasmuch as there had been a difference in the form of words, in administering baptism, settled and brought to a union some years ago, could we not, also, come to a full union and agreement with regard to feet-washing, the Lord's Supper, etc., so that a member from one section would find in every other section the same celebration, in manner and form, as at home? Considered, to refer this to the next Yearly Meeting.

Art. 46. Concerning the place of our next Yearly Meeting, invitations had been sent in from our brethren in Ashland County, Ohio, for next year, and from Aughwick Church, Pennsylvania, for the year after next. It was, therefore, concluded that the Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1854, is to take place, God willing, with our beloved brethren in Ashland County, Ohio, and, if the request be repeated, the year after next with our loving brethren on Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Brethren coming to Yearly Meeting with no other object than this, will bear in mind, that in order to lessen the burden of the Yearly Meeting to the church where it is held, it has been agreed upon, two years ago, not to meet before Sunday morning, and that it is consequently not necessary to arrive in the neighborhood before Saturday evening.

As to the Yearly Meeting next year, in Ashland County, it was stated by Bro. Elias Dicky, that brethren from the East, coming by railroad, should stop at Wooster, and brethren from the West, at Mansfield, whence the brethren of Ashland will make arrangements to have them conveyed to the place of meeting. Necessary written communica-

tions will be attended to, by addressing them to Elias Dicky, Ashland, Ohio.

In conclusion, all united once more in prayer and praises to God for the assistance granted to go through the labors of this Yearly Meeting, asking pardon for all that was amiss, and commending ourselves, with all the churches of the living God, to his care and protection.

Signed, in behalf of the meeting, by the committee of elders—Geo. Hook, Daniel Miller, Elias Dicky, of Ohio; Benj. Bowman, David Miller, of Indiana; Joseph Emmert, of Illinois; Benjamin Bowman, John Kline, of Virginia; Christ. Longenecker, Peter Long, of Pennsylvania; Jacob Leatherman, Jacob Sayler, of Maryland.

A true record.

HENRY KURTZ, Clerk.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1854.

Having again been permitted, through the mercy of God, to meet in general council, on Monday morning the meeting was organized by appointing a standing committee of twelve ordained elders—two from each state (Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) represented, and a clerk, who, having retired to a private room, received the messengers and papers sent from the different churches. Churches represented, 107, by 36 ordained elders, 58 ministers in the second, and 21 in the first degree; 40 deacons, and 15 private members. Ten committees were nominated to examine the papers, and report theron to the meeting, and on Tuesday morning the council commenced.

The following queries were reported and disposed of, in the fear of the Lord:

ARTICLE 1. Report of the committee appointed last year on the subject of slavery. (See Minutes of 1853, Art. 9.) The question having been, "How shall any branch of the church proceed in case an individual wishes to become a member who is in possession of slaves, and the law of the state in which they live is such that they can not manumit them in safety, without transporting them beyond its limits?"

"Agreeable to the ninth query of Yearly Meeting of 1853, concerning slavery, the committee appointed to report the same have had this subject under serious consideration, in the fear of the Lord, and do report as follows:

"First, Under no circumstances can slavery be admitted into the church.

"Second, In all cases where a holder of a slave or slaves wishes to become a member in the church, he be required to manumit all his slaves before baptism, upon the following conditions: The males to go out free at the age of twenty-one, and the females at the age of eighteen years. All those over and above these ages, when manumitted, are to be paid by their former owner such a sum, either in money or goods, as may be judged right by the church in which the case may occur, and which is considered as the best judge, being acquainted with all the circumstances—as a compensation for their services over age. This will enable the manumitted to migrate to a land of liberty, and will relieve the conscience of the liberator from the burden of taking with him to the bar of God the wages of oppression."

This report was adopted, after a lengthy discussion by the meeting.

ART. 2. Whether it is contrary to the gospel for brethren to lay out towns? Considered, that it is not, but that we would at the same time caution our brethren against all schemes of extravagant speculation.

ART. 3. Is it agreeable to the gospel for a brother to give

ground for meeting-houses to such that do not preach the gospel in its purity; and if not, how is he to be dealt with? Considered, as positively inconsistent with the gospel, as appears from the following testimonies: II. John 10, 11; Eph. v. 11; II. Cor. vi. 14–18. And as regards the manner of dealing with such, we recommend that they should be admonished, and required to make acknowledgment.

Art. 4. Bro. Samuel Lehman was nominated as agent for the Garber legacy in northern Illinois, in place of Joseph Emmert, resigned. Approved.

Art. 5. Bro. Daniel Miller, of Preble County, Ohio, was nominated as agent for the same fund in southwestern Ohio, in place of John Brower, resigned. Also approved.

Art. 6. Request of our brethren in northern Illinois for the Yearly Meeting in 1856. Postponed till the other business is disposed of.

Art. 7. Can a person be reinstated into the church after having been excluded for immoral conduct, when he holds the opinion that the sisters have no voice in church-council? Considered, better not receive such, as long as they entertain views contrary to the order of the church.

Art. 8. Is it expedient for a laboring brother to give liberty to a private brother to exhort or bear testimony at public worship? Considered, as not advisable, and brethren should be cautious not to offend the church by showing partiality to individual members.

Art. 9. If a brother is disowned in one church, and moves to another at a distance, and there desires to be received again, showing symptoms of repentance, acknowledging his fault, and being willing to make reparation as soon as he is able; this being made known to the church from whence he came, repeatedly, but nothing is done, nor any answer given by said church—can he be received under such circumstances by the church where he lives, or not? Considered, according to II. Cor. ii. 6–8, that the church, where a fault has been committed, should act and answer

the church where the disowned member lives, without delay.

Art. 10. As there is some difference of opinion respecting John xiii. 5, the question arises, whether one and the same member shall perform the double act of washing and wiping the saints' feet? Considered, in the same light as it was in 1849 (Art. 39), that the manner of feet-washing could not be amended, inasmuch as the command is fully obeyed in the way we observe it.

Art. 11. If one or more churches would so choose to come together in the evening to observe the ordinances of the house of God, as delivered unto us by the Savior, and continue public worship next day, believing that thereby some of the evils might be obviated, which too often accompany our love-feasts, would it be considered a departure from the Word? Considered, No; but at the same time we would advise, that the churches should be careful to observe the ordinances of the Lord, at the proper time and in due order, and to avoid all unnecessary changes.

Art. 12. When a man who says he is very near the brethren, but yet finds fault with them, comes and wants to hold meetings among us, what shall we do with him and with such brethren who go with and encourage such? Considered, that we ought not to receive such as ministers, and brethren who encourage them should be admonished, as those who do not walk consistently with the gospel. "A house divided against itself can not stand."

Art. 13. In case a leading brother in the ministry (ordained or not ordained) would be reported as having committed a gross public fault, and the ordained brethren of an adjoining congregation, at the request of some of the members of the church where the fault has been committed, call a council in that church and investigate the matter; have these ordained brethren done right? Considered, that in such case, those ordained brethren would have done right, inasmuch as the individual church is, however large it may be, only a branch or member of the body of Christ,

and inasmuch as it is the duty of ordained elders to take care of every branch of that body, especially when the leading member is sick or unfaithful.

Art. 14. Is it consistent with the example and doctrine of Christ and his apostles, when brethren write and publish books, and afterward revise and republish them, etc.? Considered, that brethren should be careful in their publications, and especially of other men's books.

Art. 15. A request for the Yearly Meeting in 1857 to be held in the church in Washington County, Maryland. This invitation will be considered in due time.

Art. 16. Is it allowed by the gospel for a sister, after her husband is dead, to be married to her step-son? Considered, not allowed according to the following passages: I. Cor. v. 1; Levit. xviii. 8. Churches should be watchful to purge out such a leaven from among them.

Art. 17. A request for a committee to visit Upper Conowago Church, Pennsylvaina. Granted, and Brethren Jacob Sayler, of Maryland, William Boyers, of Franklin, John Berkley, of Somerset, Isaac Meyers, of Union, and Jacob Hollinger, of Dauphin Counties, all in Pennsylvania, nominated as such committee.

Art. 18. Would it be more in accordance with the gospel to hold our love-feasts on Thursday, before Easter? Considered, that the gospel does not bind us to any particular day.

Art. 19. How will it be considered if a brother, serving in the office of a deacon, does not let his beard grow, and when admonished, opposes, and asks Scripture on that question? Considered, that the brethren should bear and forbear in love, and give him the best Scripture ground they can.

Art. 20. Is it not the duty of each church to keep their poor, and not let them become a county-charge, or, is it right to send a brother to the poor-house at the expense of the county? Considered, that this question was fully

and correctly answered in 1851 and 1852. (See Minutes of 1851, Art. 20, and of 1852, Art. 18.)

Art. 21. A request for the next Annual Meeting, in 1855, by the church on Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. Will be considered hereafter.

Art. 22. A request that the oldest bishop choose or appoint twelve brethren to hold a communion or love-feast at the time (and place) of Yearly Meeting, as a model, to show us the right order, according to the gospel. Considered, that Christ with his apostles, in that doleful night when he (the Savior) was betrayed, has given a model, and showed us the right order.

Art. 23. A request to reconsider query 3 on the Minutes of 1853, which reads thus: "Have we a right to help making the political government, and to serve as officers; also to put the law in force against any of our fellow-men in any case whatever? Considered, that this query was sufficiently and correctly answered in 1852. (See Rom. vi. 16, x. 1–3; II. Pet. i. 19, ii. 19; I. John iii. 8, 9; Matt. vi. 24; II. Cor. vi. 5–8; John xviii. 36.)

Art. 24. Is it more in unison with the gospel to use lamb at our love-feasts instead of beef? Considered, this query to be answered by the 21st article of the Minutes of 1853.

Art. 25. Whether the 29th article of the Minutes of 1852 should not be readopted? Considered, to let it remain as decided last year (Art. 2), with the understanding that each query should be written on a separate paper.

Art. 26. A request from Coventry Church, Chester County, Pennsylvania, for a committee to examine grievances and difficulties there existing. The request granted, and the following brethren appointed: Dan. P. Sayler and Philip Boyle, of Maryland; John Kline, of Virginia, and Samuel Harley, Jacob Wenger, and Christian Longenecker, of Pennsylvania.

Art. 27. A similar request for a committee to visit Lower

Cumberland Church, in Pennsylvania. Also granted, and Brethren Isaac Pfoutz, of Maryland; Samuel Miller, Peter Long, Andrew Spanogle, and David Bosserman, all of Pennsylvania, nominated for this committee.

Art. 28. A letter from Fulton County, Illinois, to be answered by the standing committee, which was done, approving of their proceedings.

Finally, was considered the question about the next Yearly Meeting—there having been sent in a request for the Yearly Meeting in 1855 by our brethren on Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania; another for the Yearly Meeting in 1856 by our brethren in northwestern Illinois, and another for the Yearly Meeting in 1857 by our brethren in Washington County, Maryland. Hence it was concluded, that our next Yearly Meeting should be held, God willing, with the Aughwick congregation, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1855, and the requests for the succeeding years be put on record, so that if the invitations should be repeated, and no more pressing claim should intervene, they may stand first for future consideration.

With regard to our next Annual Meeting on Aughwick, it was stated by letter from our dear brother, Andrew Spanogle, that it will be held at their meeting-house; that the nearest station on the railroad is Mount Union, from whence it is seven miles to the meeting-house, and to Bro. Samuel Lutz, who lives near it. Letters addressed to Elder Andrew Spanogle, Shirleysburg, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, will be attended to.

Signed in behalf of the meeting and the standing committee of elders: George Hoke, George Shively, of Ohio; John Kline, Joseph Arnold, of Virginia; Philip Boyle, Dan. P. Sayler, of Maryland; C. Longenecker, John Berkley, of Pennsylvania; Jacob Miller, George Hoover, of Indiana; Joseph Emmert, Christian Long, of Illinois.

Henry Kurtz, Clerk.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1855.

After public worship, held on Lord's-day before, the council-meeting was commenced on Monday morning, by singing and prayer, and making the necessary statements. The meeting was organized by appointing a standing committee of thirteen elders, with two clerks, and one hundred and ten brethren were representing the churches, who were divided into ten committees, to examine and report on the papers sent in. On Tuesday morning most of the committees were ready to report, and the following queries were proposed and answered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. A request for a committee to visit Sugar Creek congregation, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Granted, and Brethren Joseph Showalter, John Shoemaker, Elias Dicky, John Molsbaugh, and Jacob Kurtz, appointed for this visit.

Art. 2. How is it considered, if a young brother and sister want to marry each other, and being opposed by their parents (members, too), accomplish their design so late as to bring reproach upon themselves and the church? Considered, that the young members should be dealt with according to the circumstances, so as to prove that the church is not participating in evil, and that the parents should also be admonished, if the church finds them in error.

Art. 3. How is it considered, if a brother, or brethren, belong to the party so-called "Know-Nothings," and take an active part in it, trying to persuade brethren to join said party? Considered, that no brother, who is a member of the so-called Know-Nothings, or any other secret society, can be a member of our communion.

Art. 4. Hath a brother a right to defend himself with a deadly weapon at the appearance of being in danger? Considered, he hath *not*, inasmuch as the Savior says to Peter: "Put up thy sword into his place; for all they that

take the sword, shall perish with the sword." Matt. xxvi. 52.

Art. 5. Renewal of the invitation from the church in Washington County, Maryland, for the Annual Meeting in 1857. Considered, that they are entitled to it, provided the invitation is renewed next year.

Art. 6. Is it consistent with the gospel to receive persons into the church with hand and kiss, when circumstances will not permit baptism to be performed? Considered, that it is not according to the gospel to consider persons as members of the church without baptism; yet they should be encouraged, and, if they wish it, their cases may be taken into consideration by the church, in council, and they be received as candidates for baptism, which is to be performed as soon as circumstances will permit.

Art. 7. How it would be considered, if a brotner obtains a patent for any invention? Considered, that it would be safest, in all cases, first to ask counsel of the church before obtaining a patent.

Art. 8. Whether it is agreeable with the word of God to erect tombstones? Considered, that it would not agree with the principles of the gospel, such as humility, non-conformity to the world, etc., to erect large and expensive tombstones.

Art. 9. What course is the church to pursue with members, and even speakers, who say they can not see, with the brethren, that the pardon of sin, and the reception of the Holy Spirit, follow baptism, believing and contending that many do experience the pardon of sin and receive the Holy Spirit before baptism, when such brethren have been admonished, again and again, that they should not contend for, or preach, such doctrine; but after all the admonitions and labor to convince them of their error from the Scriptures, which they will acknowledge, and then turn right about and contend for the same old thing, thereby wounding the feelings of the brethren, etc.? Considered, that we should bear with one another's private opinion in love, but

ought to be united in word and sentiment as regards "the common salvation" (Jude III.), and ought to speak the same thing; that is to say, the plain, simple, word of God, and earnestly and unitedly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints, and that a doctrine contrary to the common plan of salvation should not be preached or contended for; but if done, and the brother is admonished according to the gospel, and he will not hear, we would have to proceed according to Matt. XVIII. However, it was recommended to use all possible leniency, long-suffering, and forbearance in such a case.

ART. 10. How is a church to proceed with members, who were disowned because the brother married a sister who was married before to a man (not a brother), and was divorced from him on account of him committing adultery, but who has since died? Considered, if the church is satisfied of the former husband's death, and with the repentance of the brother and sister, they may be received again.

ART. 11. Is a speaker allowed to take any amount of money for marrying that may be offered him, and if so, how much? Referred to Art. 9 of the Yearly Meeting in Wayne County, Ohio, 1848, which reads thus: "Considered, that this meeting can not advise brethren to take a fee, and would leave it, as a matter of conscience, to the ministering brother, with the advice of the church in which he lives."

ART. 12. How is it considered when members leave at council-meeting, before it is nearly out, in order to attend another religious meeting (not of our brethren), and when other members do not attend council-meeting at all? Considered, that all members should be punctual to attend council-meetings, and remember the apostle's admonition (Heb. x. 25): "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;" and such as would leave council-meetings, for no other cause than above mentioned, should be earnestly reminded that "God is not the

author of confusion." I. Cor. xiv. 33. In conclusion, it was deemed proper to admonish our dear brethren and sisters to observe that order and decency, in attending our council-meetings, as in all other cases, as the Word teaches us. I. Cor. xiv. 40.

Art. 13. A request for a committee to visit the church in Tulpehaccon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. Granted, and Elders Samuel Harley, Jacob Wenger, Jacob Hollinger, Samuel Miller, and David Gerlach, appointed.

Art. 14. Is it conforming with the world to build meeting-houses? Answer: No, if built without unnecessary ornaments, and only for the worship of God.

Art. 15. How is it considered, if a member is taken to the Lunatic Asylum by the children, that are not members; is it the duty of the church to pay the expenses? Considered, that the church is not bound to pay any debts but those which it contracts.

Art. 16. A private letter requesting a committee to settle difficulties in Mahoning Church, Ohio. Privately answered by the committee.

Art. 17. If two brethren were chosen, at one and the same time, as ministers in the first degree, and some time afterward advanced together to the second degree, and in course of time the church is in need of an overseer or bishop, can those two brethren both be ordained as such, or only one? Considered, that in such a case both brethren may be ordained, provided there be no sufficient cause known to prevent it.

Art. 18. In case a young sister, being deceived by promises of marriage, and is left afterward, in shame and distress, by her deceiver, can she be retained as a member, if she shows repentance, etc.? This question might be answered with a question of the apostle (I. Cor. v. 6): "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" and it was considered, that such a sister should be expelled, until she comes and makes humble and public acknowledg-

ment of her error before the church, and affords ample proof of sincere penitence.

Art. 19. What to do with a person wishing to become a member, and confessing to be a Freemason, yet not willing to renounce it? Considered, that no person could, or should, be admitted into the church, unless he shall previously renounce all connection whatever with Freemasonry, or any and every other secret society, with which he may have been connected.

Art. 20. What is the advice of the General Council to individual members, say four, five, or more, who can not commune with the church because they have beef instead of a lamb at their love-feast? Considered as good advice for such members to submit to the order of the church where they live, and to reflect on the admonition of the apostle (Col. II. 16, 17): "Let no man, therefore, judge you, in meat or in drink," etc., "which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Again, to learn of his example (Phil. IV. 11), where he says: "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am [with whomsoever I am, according to the German translation] therewith to be content."

Art. 21. Is it according to the gospel, at the close of our meetings, to sing a hymn, and invite mourners to come forward, and if none will come, to sing another hymn, and give another invitation, and lastly, to tell the congregation to rise on their feet, and, with raised hand, speak a blessing over the people? Considered, that this is not agreeable with the gospel, and should not be done.

Art. 22. Request for the Yearly Meeting of 1858 from the brethren in Wabash Valley, Indiana. The invitation gratefully accepted, and may be granted, God willing, if repeated.

Art. 23. How it is considered, if a church, having no ordained elder, has a case of gross sin, such as is described in I. Cor. v. 11, and application is made to ordained elders to

assist them, the elders making an appointment, and failing to attend; has the church a right to put such members back, or ought the church to hold such transgressors as full members, until they can get ordained elders? Considered, that the church may, and ought, to put them back provisionally, when the crime is sufficiently proven, until ordained elders can attend.

Art. 24. If two brethren, or members, should raise a quarrel, before or in presence of others, so as nearly to come in bodily conflict, or to fight, can such matter be settled between those members, or ought it to be brought before the church? Considered, that such public crimes must be settled before and by the church.

Art. 25. Concerning the difference in the time of coming together for holding love-feasts; does it not appear as if there was a division or disunion among us, when some churches meet and have public worship (according to ancient order of the brethren) in the forenoon, others at one, two, or three o'clock, and again others in the evening, about the time when the exercises immediately connected with the Lord's Supper should begin? Could there not a uniform practice be adopted in this, as it used to be among the brethren in by-gone years? Considered, to be left to the consideration of the churches, and to let them decide when their love-feasts are to be held.

Art. 26. How is it considered best to do with a brother, or brethren, that will not use the words, in administering baptism, as it was decided at the Yearly Meeting, near Wooster, Ohio, in 1848, "for the remission or forgiveness of sin?" Considered, that the decision of said council should be observed, as it was observed by many brethren from time immemorial, and those brethren, who will not submit to it, should be admonished, for love sake, and for the Word's sake, to comply.

Art. 27. Would it not be right to hold a love-feast, after all matters are settled, at the Yearly Meeting, inasmuch as

many of us will never see each other again (in this life), and thus show, also, a pattern to all the brethren, how it ought to be held? Considered it best to have no love-feast at our Annual Meetings, as the number of people present is so large.

Art. 28. How ought the church to hold a member, who argues and contends that Christ was eating the Jewish passover with his disciples, and at the same time the Jews did eat it; and also contends that it is not binding on the followers of Christ to observe a supper, or any thing more than the bread and wine, and that feet-washing ought to be observed after eating, neither can be satisfied with the brethren that preach otherwise? Considered, that as it appears evident, from John xiii. 1–29; xix. 14; xviii. 28, that Christ's Supper with his disciples was eaten before the Jewish passover, and it appears, from a comparison of Mark xiv. 20, and John xiii. 26, that the supper recorded by Mark, and that recorded by John, are the same. Again, Luke calls the meal which Christ ate with his disciples, at which he instituted the communion, a supper, and a comparison of Luke xxii. 23, and John xiii. 25, will show that they were the same. Now, as it appears plain that the supper, in John xiii., was before the Jewish passover, that of Luke xxii. 20 was likewise before it, and, therefore, not the passover itself. Further, from the Acts of the Apostles, and from the epistles, we find that there was in the church a feast of charity. (See Jude xii.; I. Cor. v. 8; II. Peter ii. 13; Acts xviii. 21). When we take all this evidence into consideration, we think it is sufficient to satisfy every sincere and candid mind, that those who want to adhere to the practice of the church, in the times of the apostles, must have a feast of charity; and those brethren who oppose such a feast, oppose the gospel, and therefore should be admonished. And concerning the washing of feet after the communion, we would say, that it appears, from the reading of the thirteenth chapter of John, that feet-washing

was practiced before John leaned on the bosom of Christ (see John XIII. 23); but we find, from John XXI. 20, that John leaned on the bosom of Christ at supper. Therefore, feet-washing was performed by Christ before supper, and certainly before the communion, as the communion was administered after supper.

ART. 29. Request for a committee to Illinois, to confer with the far-western brethren, or a committee of them, to investigate the differences in doctrine and practice existing between them and us, and report to the next Annual Meeting. Granted, and Brethren Abraham Maas, Christian Long, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, James H. Tracey, David Hardman, John Bowman, Daniel Frey, Daniel P. Sayler, John H. Umstad, and James Quinter, appointed for this business.

ART. 30. Request for advice, from our members in Oregon Territory. Granted, by a letter signed by the standing committee.

ART. 31. A request for a committee to visit the church in Owen County, Indiana. Left over to Elder John Metzger, to go there, with some more brethren (and at least one more elder), to investigate the case.

ART. 32. Request for next Yearly Meeting repeated by our brethren in northern Illinois. Upon this it was concluded that our next Annual meeting shall take place, God willing, with our beloved brethren in Illinois, at the place of Bro. Michael Raber, in Stephenson County, on Pentecost, 1856. Nearest station on the railroad, Lena. Address Elder Daniel Frey, Kent, Stephenson County, Illinois.

ART. 33. Bro. John H. Umstad was appointed as agent for the receiving and distributing of Garber's legacy for the poor east of Susquehanna, in place of Bro. Christian Longenecker, deceased; and Bro. Peter Long in the same capacity for the west side of Susquehanna, in place of Andrew Spanogle, resigned.

Signed in behalf of the standing committee—Geo. Hoke,

John Molsbaugh, of Ohio; J. Leatherman, John Metzger, of Indiana; Daniel Frey, of Illinois; John Kline, Daniel Brower, of Virginia; Daniel P. Sayler, George Bear, of Maryland; Daniel Bollinger, John H. Umstad, John Berkley, Andrew Spanogle, of Pennsylvania.

HENRY KURTZ, Clerk.

JAMES QUINTER, Assistant Clerk.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1856.

As usual, there was public worship, not only on the Lord's-day, but also before and after, as opportunity offered, at different places. Monday morning the council-meeting was opened, a standing committee nominated, and to this the papers, etc., handed in, and distributed among ten other committees. On Tuesday morning, after opening the meeting with singing and prayer, the committees reported the following points and queries, together with their answers, which were then further considered, in the fear of the Lord:

ARTICLE 1. What is to be done, according to the gospel, with brethren who take more than lawful interest, and are not willing to be subject to the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1826? The gospel directs the subjects of Christ's kingdom to be subject to the laws of the land; therefore no brother should take more than the law allows. If he doth, he should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII., and required to restore what has been taken unlawfully.

ART. 2. Is it proper for brethren to have their property insured by insurance companies? Considered, to leave it as the brethren made it in 1847 (Art. 11), but we would, in addition, advise all brethren not to unite or bind themselves with or to any company or society of this world.

Art. 3. If members commit gross sins, such as fornication, etc., and there is no ordained brother in such district, and the church sends to the nearest adjoining districts for ordained brethren, who, with the full consent of the church, place such members under the ban or avoidance, as the apostle saith, "not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator," etc. (I. Cor. v. 11), and afterward the oldest minister of such church turns round and tells the members, and even those who were placed in avoidance, that the brethren had no authority or right to do so, and by so doing creates considerable uneasiness in the church? Considered, that such a brother has done wrong, and that he should be corrected.

Art. 4. How is it considered, when a church unitedly agrees not to use ardent spirits, except for medical, mechanical, or communion purpose, and a member of said church will not comply with the above decision? Considered, that such member should be dealt with as in other offenses.

Art. 5. Would it not be best in holding elections for the purpose of choosing ministers or deacons, that none of the ministering brethren of such district should take any part, or even be in the room where the votes of the members are received, but that brethren of other districts should be called for said purpose? Considered, that every member should have an equal privilege of giving their voices, and that the remainder of this query were best left to the control of the strange brethren.

Art. 6. A request by the Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, for the Yearly Meeting in 1859. Granted, provided the request be renewed, and Providence will allow it.

Art. 7. A request by the church in Carroll County, Illinois, for a committee to settle difficulties existing there. Granted, and referred to the standing committee to make the appointment. This appointment was made, and Brethren Andrew Spanogle, Samuel Gerber, Daniel Frey, Joseph

Emmert, and Samuel Lehman, nominated for this business.

ART. 8. How is it considered, when a brother of another district is solicited to preach a funeral and fails to attend, and the brethren who reside in the district attend and preach the funeral, and afterward the elder, who is a relative of the deceased, has the funeral preached over again? Considered, that elders ought to be careful not to wound the feelings of their fellow-laborers by sending for others to do their work over again.

ART. 9. How is it considered, where there is a church with a bishop and two speakers, one authorized to baptize, etc., and the other not, and a case of difficulty occurs between two members and is brought before the church, those three ministers being present, but the two first, being relatives to the parties, they authorize the third to attend to the case and present it before the church; the question is, Would it be considered legal? Considered legal.

ART. 10. Is it agreeable with the gospel to make public collections at public meetings, before the world, for our laboring brethren? Considered not agreeable to the gospel to hold such collections, before the world, for the above purpose.

ART. 11. Is it becoming for a brother, especially an ordained brother, to have strings of bells on his horses, in sleighing? Considered not becoming, unless where it is required by law to prevent accidents, and can not be avoided.

ART. 12. If a brother is sued by a member of the world, may he appear and show his cause? If so, how far may he proceed with the law? Considered, that he may; but if judgment is given against him, he should proceed no further.

ART. 13. If a brother is sued for an unpaid debt, and it being out of his power to attend, yet judgment is given against him, may he take an appeal to court for a greater or less amount? Considered, that in such cases brethren have a right to a hearing to bring matters to light; yet in

all such cases brethren should ask counsel of the church to avoid difficulties to which they might subject themselves by taking their own course.

Art. 14. The committee appointed at last Annual Meeting to visit and confer with the far Western brethren, or a committee of them, to investigate the differences in doctrine and practice existing between them and us, submitted the following report:

"May 8, 1856. We, the brethren who constitute the committee appointed by the German Baptist Church, at our last Annual Meeting, to visit the Western brethren who recognize Bro. George Wolfe, of Illinois, as their bishop, by the grace and favor of God were permitted to meet at their meeting-house, where we were received on the most friendly and Christian-like terms, and after different queries were proposed for our deliberation, the three (or four) following being considered the most important, we proceed to make our report accordingly, as follows:

"First. The question concerning the reality of a devil was considered, and after comparing opinions and sentiments on the subject of the reality of such a being, and his nature, we agreed upon the following view: That the Scriptures recognize a devil, or an evil spirit, that manifests itself in the flesh.

"Second. On the doctrine of universal salvation, which denies punishment hereafter, we cordially agreed with Bro. Wolfe that all men shall receive hereafter according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad.

"Third. On the subject of feet-washing, Bro. Wolfe is firm in the opinion that one person should both wash and wipe the feet of a number of brethren, and then another, and so on, until all are washed; but he is willing to conform to the practice of the brethren in general, when in communion-meeting with them, and begs for forbearance on the part of the brethren in general, until they shall all come to see alike.

"Fourth. Bro. Wolfe is likewise strongly of the opinion that no time should be spent between the eating of the supper and the breaking of bread (the communion) but, that the whole ceremony should be prosecuted without intermission or delay.

"It is the sincere desire of Bro. Wolfe that, however these sentiments may clash with the general practice of the brethren, they may not be considered a sufficient cause why they should not be received in communion and fellowship with the brethren; with which views we, the committee, unanimously agree, and present this our report to the brethren in general council met, for their deliberation and concurrence.

"Signed by David Hardman, J. H. Umstad, J. H. Tracey, A. Moss, John Metzger, S. Lehman, C. Long."

ART. 15. Can a brother, or one that calls himself one, be a witness in church matters, without bringing a certificate of membership from the church whence he came? Considered, that members should always have letters of membership, or be known as full members.

ART. 16. A request for the Yearly Meeting in 1858 in the Wabash Valley, Indiana. Granted, unless unforseen providences should prevent it.

ART. 17. How far may brethren go in trading or trafficing without transgressing the limits of the gospel, and what is to be done with brethren who will not comply with the counsel of the church in such cases? Regarding the first point, considered dangerous, and brethren should not engage in it; as to the latter point, see Matt. XVIII. 17.

ART. 18. How are we to hold a brother and sister who lived together for some years in lawful matrimony, but not very agreeably, and now they are separated—the brother living with his children in Iowa, and the sister with her friends in Ohio? The church or churches where such members live should investigate the matter, and judge

according to the gospel and the circumstances or facts in the case, in the fear of the Lord.

Art. 19. Would it not be nearer the Word to have the supper prepared and on the table before commencing to wash feet? Referred to Minutes of 1849, Art. 19.

Art. 20. Is it the rule and order among the brethren to forward a brother to baptize at the same time he is put in the ministry? Answer, No.

Art. 21. How is it considered, when a branch of a church separates itself from the main body, forwards its ministers without a bishop being present, and pretends to act independent of the counsel of the church and the Yearly Meeting? Considered, that such proceedings are wrong, and highly dangerous, so that love induces us to charge a committee to visit that church and branch.

Art. 22. A letter from Virginia urging that this Yearly Meeting devise a plan how the church could fulfill the command of the Savior (Matt. xviii. 19) more effectually, so that the article 8, on our Minutes of 1852, shoud not remain a dead letter. This meeting recommends the subject to the serious consideration of all the churches.

Art. 23. A proposal for forming districts of five, six, or more adjoining churches, for the purpose of meeting jointly at least once a year, settling difficulties, etc., and thus lessening the business of our general Yearly Meeting. We believe this plan to be a good one, if carried out in the fear of the Lord.

Art. 24. If a man shall put away his wife for the cause of fornication—procuring a bill of divorcement, and marrying another—has he committed the sin of adultery, or could he be received into the church, all the parties still living, if he in all other respects brings forth fruits meet for repentance? After a lengthy discussion, this matter was referred to the next Yearly Meeting.

Art. 25. Would it be proper to reconsider the 7th query of 1851, concerning the putting up of lightning-rods? We

would not advise brethren to put up those rods, but that the brethren should bear with one another in love in such matters.

Art. 26. Would it be proper to reconsider the 6th query of 1848? Seeing it is admitted that sisters should wear a covering, what should that covering be, according to the gospel? We are satisfied, with our ancient brethren, that the plain cap, worn by our dear aged sisters, is a covering, as required by the scripture according to Paul.

Art. 17. Does Christian fellowship, according to the gospel, forbid, or require, or leave it optional for brethren, when meeting in cities, towns, or at public gatherings, when extending the salutation of the hand, to accompany the same with the salutation of the holy kiss? Considered, optional.

Art. 28. A request from the church in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, to have our dear brother, James Quinter, ordained for the office of an overseer at this Yearly Meeting. Concluded, that inasmuch as this brother had not been able to be present here, Brethren Joseph Showalter, of Stark, and Henry Kurtz, of Mahoning, Ohio, be appointed as a committee to attend to this business.

Art. 29. In relation to the brethren in Germany, it appears from all the documents and information presented to us, that they differ from us on baptism, feet-washing, and other points of faith and practice; hence, until we have a better evidence of their agreement with us in sentiment, and of their willingness to receive the doctrine of Christ as we have received it, we can not acknowledge them yet as brethren of the same faith with us, and inasmuch as they expressly refuse to accept of our charity, it should be reserved for future use. The letter of these brethren to be published in the "Gospel Visitor."

Art. 30. Request from the church on Owl Creek, Knox County, Ohio, for a committee to settle some difficulties. Concluded, that Brethren George Hoke, Elias Dicky, Jacob

Gerber, H. D. Davy, and J. P. Ebersole should be that committee.

Art. 31. Request from Hunterdon County, New Jersey, for a committee to investigate certain matters in the church there. Considered, that Brethren Andrew Spanogle and Peter Long, of Pennsylvania, and John Kline, John Wine, and Martin Miller, of Virginia, should visit that church, and try to settle their difficulties.

Art. 32. In regard to the still existing difficulties in the Coventry Church, Chester County, Pennsylvania, we could see no other remedy, in the present lamentable aspect of things, than that either the whole church unite sincerely to submit to the advice given by the Yearly Meeting, and the committee sent there in 1854, or to establish that part of the church which is so inclined as a separate body or church, and in order to accomplish either a true reconciliation or peaceable separation, the last-named committee is also appointed for this business, and likwise for that on Indian Creek, referred to in article 21, above.

Art. 33. By request of Bro. George Hoke, who wishes to resign his agency of the Garber charity fund, it was concluded that Bro. Elias Dicky should take charge of the same.

Art. 34. An appeal from a number of members in Story County, Iowa, to send brethren to them for the purpose of organizing a church. Left to those ordained elders who contemplate a journey to that new and growing state.

Art. 35. A number of papers were handed in concerning difficulties in Covington Church, Miami County, Ohio, which contain as many queries as would occupy a meeting for several days, and inasmuch as the settlement of the difficulties has been tried again and again, by able and impartial committees, and agreed to by the church, yet without the desired effect; also, inasmuch as said church is excessively large and numerous, we would advise the church to be divided into two districts, hoping and praying that

this may issue in a peaceable settlement and reconciliation. For this purpose the following brethren were appointed as a committee: George Shively, James Tracey, Jacob Miller, John Metzger, George Hoover, Jacob Metzger, David Hardman, all of Indiana, and Peter Nead and Daniel Miller, of Ohio.

ART. 36. A request from the church in Highland County, Ohio, for a committee to visit said church. Granted, and the committee last named also appointed for this business.

ART. 37. A renewed invitation from our beloved brethren in Washington County, Maryland, for the next Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1857, to be held at their meeting-house, where the Yearly Meeting in 1838 had taken place, eight miles south of Hagerstown, and thirteen miles northeast of Kearneysville, Jefferson County, Virginia, at both of which places brethren traveling by public conveyance will be able to procure conveyance to the place of meeting, as there will be arrangements made accordingly by the resident brethren. Brethren at a distance, desiring further information, by addressing Elder Daniel Reichard, sen., College of St. James, Washington County, Maryland, will be promptly and cheerfully attended to. This invitation was gratefully accepted, and hence our next Yearly Meeting is appointed to take place on Pentecost, 1857, God willing, at the brethren's meeting-house above designated, in Washington County, Maryland.

ART. 38. Brothers Henry Kurtz and James Quinter were appointed as a committee to enter into arrangements with the railroad companies for next Annual Meeting.

Signed by the following brethren: George Hoke, George Shively, John Leatherman, Jacob Long, Peter Nead, James Tracey, Joseph Emmert, John Berkley, Andrew Spanogle, John Kline, Joseph Arnold, Daniel Miller.

HENRY KURTZ, Clerk.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1857.

Public worship commenced on Lord's-day morning, May 31st; and, to afford the large concourse of people present as favorable an opportunity of hearing the gospel preached as possible, there was preaching at three different places. At two of those places the preaching was all in the English language, and at the other place in the English and German.

The council-meeting was opened on Monday morning, with devotional exercises. The standing committee was then appointed, and it immediately proceeded to prepare business for the meeting. While the standing committee was receiving the delegates, appointing the sub-committees, etc., there was public preaching.

The sub-committees commenced reporting on Monday afternoon, and the following queries were reported and answered, as herein stated:

Article 1. Concerning the use of ardent spirits among the brethren. Considered, that every brother that is intrusted with the oversight of a church, should exert his influence, by example and precept, to induce all the members of his congregation to abstain altogether from the use of ardent spirits, as an article of luxury or as a drink, and not to give it to working hands to drink, admitting it only for medical and mechanical purposes. The same advice is given to all the officers, in all the churches, throughout our whole brotherhood.

Art. 2. Is it according to the gospel to have the supper on the table at the time the feet are washed? Answer: Inasmuch as it is not expressly declared that Jesus rose from the table, he may probably have risen from a prepared supper, and as the brethren have the supper prepared before they proceed to the washing of feet, with their past practices in relation to these things we are satisfied.

ART. 3. Is it prudent to publish fictitious names to articles published in public prints? Answer: It is not prudent for brethren to do so.

ART. 4. Does that part of the eighteenth chapter of the gospel according to Matthew, which is read to applicants for baptism, cover all cases of trespasses and and offenses, public and private? Answer: No; it does not contain al the divine law upon the subject of offenses, but it is the best rule to pursue with offending members.

ART. 5. When the churches send messengers to represent them in the Annual Council, should they not have their traveling expenses, to and from the place of meeting, defrayed by the churches which send them? Answer: Yes, they should, if they require it.

ART. 6. As the subject of slavery has often been before the Annual Meeting, and as it has always been considered that no brother can, according to the gospel, hold a fellow-creature in bondage (to which we say, Amen), what, then, is to be done with brethren who do not observe the advice given by the Yearly Meeting, in this or in any other respect? Answer: That such churches or members should be visited, and if not willing to liberate their slaves, they should be dealt with according to the gospel manner of dealing with all gross transgressions.

ART. 7. A request for a committee to visit the church in Monroe County, Iowa. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Samuel Lehman, Christ. Long, Geo. Butterbaugh, Dan. Frey, John Metzger, Sam. Garver, Hiel Hamilton, and John P. Ebersole.

ART. 8. The twenty-fourth query on the minutes of 1856 being brought forward, it was concluded best for such churches as have occasion to act on such cases, to act in the fear of the Lord, according to their knowledge of the cases.

ART. 9. Why do not the sisters break the bread, and

pass the cup to each other, in the same manner as the brethren do, at the communion? Answer: Man being the head of the woman, and it having been the practice of the church, from time immemorial, for the officiating brethren to break the bread to the sisters, we know of no scriptural reason for making a change in our practice.

Art. 10. How is it considered for brethren, and especially ministering brethren, to adorn their children with ear-rings, breast-pins, finger-rings, and jewelry in general, and send them from home to have them taught music, and to procure pianos for them? Answer: Brethren should not do so.

Art. 11. How is it considered for brethren to have Sabbath schools, conducted by the brethren? Answer: Inasmuch as we are commanded to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, we know of no scripture which condemns Sabbath-schools, if conducted in gospel order, and if they are made the means of teaching scholars a knowledge of the Scriptures.

Art. 12. How is it considered, if a poor brother becomes insane, and void of all reason, so much so as to become dangerous, and very troublesome, and a place can scarcely be obtained for him in a private family upon any condition, a poor-house being in the county, are the brethren bound to keep him, according to the gospel, or are they permitted to deliver him to the trustees of the poor, to take charge of him? Answer: A member of the church should not be put into the poor-house, if it can possibly be avoided.

Art. 13. What right have any two or three churches to reconsider the action of another church, and that without any representation from the church upon whose decision they sit in judgment, and then reinstate members which said church had excluded? Answer: We consider that one branch of the church has no right to restore a member to his place in the church, when he had been excluded by another branch of the church, without the concurrence of the church which excluded him.

ART. 14. How is it considered, if ministering brethren take as much as ten dollars, as a fee for performing the marriage ceremony; and does the gospel allow ministers a fee under any circumstances? Answer: The gospel does not allow ministers to take a fee.

ART. 15. Is it really considered a sin, according to the gospel, for members of the church to have their likenesses taken? Answer: Members of the church should not have their likenesses taken.

ART. 16. Inasmuch as it is considered, by the brethren, that we have no right, according to the gospel, to use the law in collecting debts, or to sue at law, would not a brother who has done so, or may do so, fall into the judgment of the church? Answer: This subject has frequently been discussed in our Annual Meetings, and we can not, we think, come to a better conclusion than our dear brethren came to in 1852; and as no brother should be his own judge in this matter, the brethren, very wisely, added the proviso, that in all cases the church should be consulted, and if the council is disregarded, those who disregard it will fall into the judgment of the church.

ART. 17. A request from the Clover Creek Church, in Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting in 1860. The request was favorably received, and will be considered at a future meeting.

ART. 18. A request for a committee to visit the Swatara Church, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Peter Long, Andrew Spanogle, Sam. Harley, John Glock, John Holsinger, and George Brumbaugh.

ART. 19. What are the views of the present Annual Council in regard to the contemplated school, that was alluded to, some time since, in the "Gospel Visitor?" Answer: It is conforming to the world. The Apostle Paul says: "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

ART. 20. Do not those administrators of baptism, who

make the candidates for baptism renounce all the world require too much of the candidates, since we all have more or less to do with the world? Would it not be more proper to require of them to renounce only what is contrary to the gospel? Answer: The third article of the minutes of 1848, contains the proper renunciation of the world. The passage in that article, referred to here, reads thus: "Dost thou renounce all the sinful pleasures of this world?"

Art. 21. Would it not be better, in deciding upon all subjects brought before our Annual Meetings, to refer first to the word of God, instead of first referring to the old minutes? Answer: We think it always safest to refer first to the word of God.

Art. 22. Is it agreeable to the gospel for brethren to teach singing-schools? Answer: We consider it best for brethren not to teach singing-school on the Sabbath or at night.

Art. 23. If persons, who are not members of the church, become subscribers to the "Gospel Visitor," should the editors send the minutes of the Annual Meeting to such? Answer: We think it not wrong to send the minutes of the Annual Meeting to all who desire them, and pay for them.

Art. 24. Would it not be best for churches, in selecting delegates to represent them at the Annual Council, to make choice of one deacon, or of one lay member, to serve as a delegate in connection with one ministering brother, and thus relieve the ministry from the responsible position of being the exclusive advisers of the churches? Answer: We think it should be left to the churches to select such members for delegates as they may think proper.

Art. 25. It is requested that the ninth article of the minutes of 1855 be again taken into consideration, because of great difficulties and dissatisfaction which have arisen from the same. It seems, according to that article, to be consid-

ered an error to teach remission of sins before baptism. This seems difficult and dark, and we desire a better explanation of the matter. If we receive no more light to satisfy our members, and even our teachers, we have fears of serious troubles in the brotherhood. Answer: We do not think that we can give more satisfaction than is given in the ninth article of the minutes of 1855, as the sentiments there expressed seem to be in accordance with the gospel, and we, therefore, adopt that answer.

Art. 26. A request for a committee to visit the church in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, to settle difficulties. The request was granted, and the following brethren appointed on the committee: Andrew Spanogle, Abraham Rothrock, David Meyers, Joseph Hanawalt, and John Glock.

Art. 27. A request for a committee to visit the Ridge Church, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Christian Keefer, Isaac Pfoutz, Jacob Saylor, Philip Boyle, and Geo. Beer.

Art. 28. A request for a committee to visit the Tulpehocken Church, in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, to settle difficulties existing there. The request was granted, and the same committee appointed to visit this church that was appointed to visit the Swatara Church, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. (See Art. 18).

Art. 29. The Marsh Creek Church, in Adams County, Pennsylvania, requests a reconsideration of Art. 39, of the minutes of 1853, relating to the salutation of the kiss, at baptism, the communion, and at ordinations. Answer: It is neither expedient, nor desirable, to make any change in the aforesaid article of the minutes.

Art. 30. Is it consistent with the gospel for brethren to serve in the capacity of any of the civil officers under our government; and is there any material difference, as to state, county, or township officers? Answer: We consider it wrong for brethren to accept of any office, which requires

them to administer an oath, or to use physical force, in performing the duties of that office.

Art. 31. Would it not be advisable to change the time of holding our Annual Meetings, as Whitsuntide comes too early some seasons, especially in some parts of the country? Answer: We judge it best to make no change in the time of holding our Annual Council.

Art. 32. If a brother removes from one church to another, and is received by the church to which he removes as a full member, by certificate or otherwise, and afterward a difficulty arises with him in the church in which he formerly resided, is his case to be tried in the church into which he removed, or is he to have his trial in the church in which the difficulty originated? Answer: It is judged proper that his case be referred back to the church from which he removed.

Art. 33. A request from the Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting in 1859. The request was favorably received, but no definite decision made.

Art. 34. A request from the Limestone Church, in Washington County, Tennessee, for the Annual Meeting, as soon as convenient, if suitable, in 1860. The request was favorably received but no answer given.

Art. 35. A request for a committee to visit the Ashland Church, in Ashland County, Ohio. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: J. P. Ebersole, Joseph Showalter, Henry Davy, Christian Wise, and David Fackler.

Art. 36. A renewal of the request from the Bachelor Run Church, Indiana, for the Annual Meeting of 1858. This request was thankfully received, and granted. Consequently, our next Yearly Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, on Pentecost, 1858, with the brethren of Bachelor Run Church, Carroll County, Indiana. The place of meeting will be the Bachelor Run meeting-house, ten miles

southeast of Delphi. Persons traveling by public conveyance will go to Delphi.

Signed by John H. Umstad, Andrew Spanogle, Christ. Keefer, John Wine, Abraham Neff, J. P. Ebersole, George Hoke, John Metzger, Abraham Moss, Joseph Emmert, Samuel Garver.

D. P. Saylor, Clerk.

James Quinter, Assistant Cler

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1858.

The number of brethren assembled on Saturday being very large, there was a meeting for worship held in the afternoon. On Lord's-day, in order to give the people the best opportunities the circumstances would permit for hearing the word of the Lord preached, divine service was performed at different places. On Monday morning the council-meeting was organized by appointing the standing committee and secretaries. The delegates then presented themselves, and the papers addressed to the council were received. There were represented at this council-meeting one hundred and twenty-two churches. The delegates from these churches were divided into fifteen committees, and to them were given the papers designed to come before the council, in order that they might report upon them. On Tuesday morning after the devotional exercises were performed, the committees began to report, and it was ascertained that the following queries were before the council. They were considered in the fear of God, and answered as herein stated.

Article 1. Can a person be received into the church who is uncle to his wife? Or, do the brethren think the gospel will not allow such a person becoming a member of the church? Considered, that if he is uncle to his wife by

marriage, he may be received, if by blood relation, he should not be.

Art. 2. Is it according to the gospel of Christ for brethren, especially bishops, in speaking on the final destinies of the ungodly, to preach publicly that they shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and privately teach that all will be restored everlastingly, whether they know God and obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ or not? And if asked the question by an alien whether the devil himself will be saved, make no reply? Answer: We think brethren should be careful not to contradict privately what they preach publicly.

Art. 3. Is it consistent to preach eternal punishment, and at the same time to peddle Winchester's Dialogues on Restoration? Tell us how it is. Answer: If a brother preaches eternal punishment, it would be inconsistent for him to distribute Winchester's Dialogues on the Restoration.

Art. 4. It is according to the gospel of Christ in paying our annual visit, to collect from twenty to thirty of the brethren together in one place, and then the bishops pay the visit to them openly when they are all together, and then send them out two or three together and visit those that were not thus collected? Or, is the duty restricted to the visiting brethren exclusively, and should the visit be made from house to house? Answer: As we have no direct rule in the gospel for making the visit, we think it best for visiting brethren to go from house to house.

Art. 5. Is it required of those who are so unfortunate as to have their companions put in avoidance, not to accompany with them as man and wife? Considered, that as the apostle says we are not to eat with them, we think his prohibition is sufficient.

Art. 6. How are we to proceed with members who come to our love-feasts, from other congregations, and who when they leave home are dressed after the gay fashions of the

world, and during the day change their dress several times, and put on in the evening a plainer dress to go to the communion table? Is it enough simply to admonish such members, or should the church in which they live be informed? And must we indeed commune with such members, when some of the members in the church are grieved by such conduct? Considered, that it is wrong for members to do so, but they should not be debarred from the privilege of communing until the brethren of the district in which they live have been informed, and until they have been reproved, and afterward continue disobedient.

ART. 7. What is to be done when a man puts away his wife for the cause of adultery and obtains a bill of divorcement, and marries again; the church not knowing of this, nor he that the church disallows of such for some two years after he has become a member. Answer: We have not light enough at present to give any advice different from what the brethren have formerly given.

ART. 8. Does the gospel convey the idea that the public practical use of the spiritual gifts, such as prayer, exhortation, teaching, doctrine, and prophesying, etc., are alone confined to the chosen officers of the church, or does it extend that privilege to every member, especially male members of the church, if the influence of the spirit of Christ so dictate to him? Answer: As it regards prayer, it is considered that private members may pray in public, if liberty be given by elder brethern. But exhortation, teaching and prophesying seem to be duties and privileges belonging to the officers of the church. (See I. Cor. XIV. 32).

ART. 9. Would it not be advisable for the Annual Meeting to make a form for the brethren to perform matrimony? Answer: It is thought not advisable.

ART. 10. How is it considered when a difficulty arises between husband and wife, and the wife depart from her husband, is it the duty of the husband to pursue the course prescribed in Matt. XVIII. 15–17? Answer: We consider it is.

Art. 11. Is it according to the gospel to expel a brother from his office, whether deacon or minister, and yet leave him stand as a member? Answer: We have a right—according to the gospel; inasmuch as he is put into office by the council of the church, by the council of the church the office can be taken from him. I. Tim. III.

Art. 12. Is it agreeable to the gospel for a church to grant the privilege to a member to do certain things, and at the same time debar him from the communion for so doing? Answer: That no church, according to the gospel, has a right to do so.

Art. 13. If the churches demand committees by the Annual Meeting, to visit them to settle difficulties among them, would it be advisable for said churches to defray the expenses of said committees. Answer: The churches calling committees should defray the traveling expenses.

Art. 14. Would it not be advisable for those who wish to have the minutes, to pay a few more cents to the publishers and have them sent in a sealed letter, more privately than they heretofore have been sent? Referred to the Annual Meeting of 1857. (We think it not wrong to send the minutes of the Annual Meeting to all who desire them and pay for them. Minutes of 1857, Art. 23.)

Art. 15. Would it not be agreeable to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, when the standing committee appoints committees to go to other churches to settle difficulties, to authorize such brethren that circumstances will not permit to attend such council, to send some other ordained brethren in their places, so that there will be a full committee? Considered, that it is the duty of such brethren, that can not go, to appoint others in their places, that the committee may be full.

Art. 16. Is it right for a brother, that is a deacon, to give out a hymn and sing it, ten or fifteen minutes before the time appointed for commencing meeting, when the house, or room, is full of people, or is it more advisable to remain

silent till the time for commencing meeting arrives? Considered, that we see no impropriety in singing, when, in the estimation of the church, it is done to its own edification, and to the honor of God.

Art. 17. Is it right for a speaker to sing a hymn, or a part of a hymn, at the time of the communion, when the wine is passing round? Considered, it is right to do so.

Art. 18. Whereas, we are aware that the decision of the last Annual Meeting, in relation to the subject presented in the fourteenth query of said meeting, has given a great deal of dissatisfaction, and is, to a great extent disregarded, thus bringing the decisions of the Annual Meeting into disrespect; we therefore recommend that this meeting reconsider that subject, and if the decision of the last meeting is sustained, it is desirable that some scriptural authority should be given for it, as should be done in all cases. Reconsidered, and concluded to adopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1848. (Considered, that this meeting can not advise brethren to take a fee, and would leave it, as a matter of conscience, to the ministering brother, with the advice of the church in which he lives. Minutes of 1848, Art. 9.)

Art. 19. What is the ancient and established order of the brethren in advancing speakers to the second degree of office? Are they received with hand and kiss? Considered, that the proper way is to receive them with hand and kiss.

Art. 20. Is it right, according to the gospel, to enforce the law in any case whatever, and if so, where is the gospel authority? Concluded to adopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1857. (This subject has frequently been discussed in our Annual Meetings, and we can not, we think, come to a better conclusion than our dear brethren came to in 1852; and as no brother should be his own judge in this matter, the brethren, very wisely, added the proviso, that, in all cases, the church should be consulted,

and if its council is disregarded, those who disregard it will fall into the judgment of the church. Minutes of 1857, Art. 16.)

Art. 21. Is it right, according to the gospel, for brethren to purchase notes from brethren, or others, and shave them at 15 per cent. or more? Considered, that it is not according to the gospel for brethren to do so.

Art. 22. What should be done with a brother who holds the council of the Annual Meeting in disrespect, and who speaks lightly and disrespectfully of it? Considered, that he should be kindly admonished to do so no more, and if he will not hear the admonition, he should be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

Art. 23. What does the Annual Meeting think of taking the preparatory steps for producing a new hymn-book? Referred to the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 24. When a church stands in need of speakers or deacons, should the bishop make it known to the members before, or only on the day of the election? Considered, that we leave the churches to do as they have been accustomed to do in relation to this subject.

Art. 25. In the phrase, "Anoint thy head" (Matt. vi. 17), is the anointing literal? and, if so, with what is the head to be anointed? Answer: We think the anointing is literal, and that it is to be done with oil; but we think, when it is observed, it should be done in a way so that it will not attract public notice.

Art. 26. How is it considered if a brother, who is a minister, would make appointments some distance from home, where there is an organized church, and would hold meetings, and baptize, without referring to the brethren that had the oversight there of the church, when the brethren live in the immediate neighborhood, and might be consulted conveniently? And if this is wrong, how should such a brother be dealt with? Considered, that when ministering brethren go out of their own church, to labor and to ad-

minister the ordinances of the gospel in another district, they should do so with the consent of the laborers of the district into which they go, when it can be conveniently obtained. And brethren who do not adhere to this counsel, do not labor to promote peace and love, and should be admonished by the church.

Art. 27. Would it not be well for the brethren to come upon some plan to acquaint all the bishops and housekeepers of the various branches of the church with the rules and regulations concluded upon by the General Council for the more perfect union and prosperity of the church? And if these rules and regulations be violated by a minister, with some of the members composing his district, should they not fall into the hands of the brethren of the adjacent districts, as offenders, and be dealt with as such; and if the above should be considered expedient, what plan should be devised to carry it into effect? Answer: We are fully satisfied that the means long had in practice by the brethren (namely, the minutes of our Annual Meeting), are sufficient to give the teachers and housekeepers, and members in general, the decisions of our Annual Council for the perfecting of love and union throughout the brotherhood; and if it should so happen that a housekeeper, with a part, or all, of the members of his district, could not be satisfied with the decisions of the Annual Council, as we were advised and instructed by our beloved elder brethren, and unanimously concurred in at the Annual Meeting, held in 1850, in Montgomery County, Ohio, they should bear with the Annual Council, and with one another, until the next Annual Meeting, and then bring their grievances to the Annual Council where they proceeded from, and, we believe, full satisfaction will be obtained.

Art. 28. Is it consistent with the word of God for the followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to make arrangements with railroad companies to obtain the benefit of half-fare, in going to and returning from the Yearly Meet-

ing? Considered, that it is right for brethren to avail themselves of the privilege offered by the railroad companies, but we would advise all our brethren to comply with the rules of the companies, and if a misunderstanding should occur, not to contend, but rather pay full fare.

Art. 29. Is it right to give liberty to other denominations to preach funeral sermons in our meeting-houses? Answer: It is right, especially if preached on the day of the funeral.

Art. 30. How is it considered if a brother has a note against another poor brother, who can not pay, and the brother who has the note sells it to his son, who is not a member of the church, and he collects the debt by law, and causes the poor brother's property to be sold, the brother who sold the note justifying himself in doing as he did; what is to be done in such a case? Considered, that the brother who did so, committed a great fault, and that he should make restitution to the poor brother to the satisfaction of the church.

Art. 31. Is it contrary to the gospel for brethren to hold meetings for a number of days in succession, in one place, in order to preach the pure word of God, and to administer the ordinance of baptism to those who believe the word and receive it? Considered, not contrary to the gospel, if the believer is proceeded with according to the gospel and the order of the brethren, as given by the Annual Meeting of 1848, Art. 3.

Art. 32. If any man be in Christ, and Christ in him, can he institute and prosecute a process in law against any person or persons, and he all the time still continue in Christ, and Christ in him? Considered, that he can not, especially if gone into without the counsel of the church in which he lives.

Art. 33. Is it according to the word of God to make use of beef instead of lamb, in eating the Lord's Supper? Answer: It is.

Art. 34. Whereas, there is a diversity of opinion among

the brethren concerning the mode of celebrating the Lord's Supper; we, therefore, wish the brethren, at the Annual Meeting, to devise some plan, that we may all be alike in our practice. Considered, that inasmuch as the difference is not stated, we recommend the practice heretofore recommended.

ART. 35. How is it considered when ministering brethren have preached at meeting, and visiting brethren rise to their feet to bear testimony? Or, which is the proper order, for deacons to rise or keep their seats in exhorting? Considered, that it is not advisable, when two or three ministering brethren have preached, for deacons to rise and speak; but if there is but one speaker, or if there are none present, it is not inconsistent with the order of the brethren for a deacon to rise and exhort.

ART. 36. Is it right to use, at our communion meetings, the article of wine frequently used, and known by those who are judges of the article to be an adulterated article, and hence can not properly be called the fruit of the vine? Considered, that it is advisable to procure the purest article.

ART. 37. How is it considered when one brother preaches that there is no baptism of the Holy Ghost now, but that it is only the gift of the Holy Ghost which believers receive, while another brother prays for the Lord to baptize with the Holy Ghost? Answer: We think it best for no brother to preach that there is no baptism of the Holy Ghost now, but in praying we should pray for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

ART. 38. How is it considered if a brother makes an assignment, and how shall he be dealt with? Answer: That it is not right for a brother to make an assignment, with the purpose to defraud his creditors; and if he should do so, he should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 39. How should brethren proceed, after preaching, relative to getting members to join the church? Shall the preacher, while singing a hymn, give an invitation to those

who wish to join the church to come forward, or shall he leave it to them to make their own application? Considered, that it is best to let them make their own application, as in Acts II. 37, and XVI. 30.

ART. 40. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to hold what are called social meetings, and to give liberty to all present to rise and speak, so that members of other societies feel themselves at liberty to admonish? Considered, that social meetings should be strictly held in order, and to give liberty to all present to rise on their feet and admonish, is not in order.

ART. 41. Inasmuch as there has been great confusion in various branches of the church, during the past year, relative to the manner of taking in members, as this has been done in many different ways, would brethren not consider it prudent, and consistent with the gospel, to have a unity of practice throughout the church, and, if so, what shall that practice be; shall it be the order laid down in the minutes of 1848, or will the brethren draft a new order? Considered, that we will continue the order laid down in the minutes of 1848, which is as follows:

"First, the applicant to be examined by two or more brethren; then the case to be brought before the church council, before whom the applicant is to declare his agreement with us, in regard to the principles of being defenseless, non-swearing, and not conforming to the world; then in meeting, or at the water, to read from Matt. XVIII. 10–22, in public, the candidates being asked if they will be governed by those gospel rules; then prayer at the water, and in the water the following questions to be asked:

"Question: Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he has brought from heaven a saving gospel? Answer: Yea.

"Question: Dost thou willingly renounce Satan, with all his pernicious ways, and all the sinful pleasures of this world? Answer: Yea.

"Question: Dost thou covenant with God, in Christ Jesus, to be faithful until death? Answer: Yea.

"Upon this, thy confession of faith, which thou hast made before God and these witnesses, thou shalt, for the remission of sins, be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. After baptism, while in the water, the administrator shall lay his hands on the head of the candidate, and offer up a prayer to God in his behalf, and then the member is to be received, by hand and kiss, into church fellowship." Minutes of 1848, Art. 3.

Art. 42. How is it considered, if a member moves off some distance, and be absent awhile, and then return on a visit, and then, while at the place at which he formerly resided, conducting himself either becoming or unbecoming a follower of Christ, the church gives him permission to exhort or preach, by taking silence for consent? Considered, not according to the order of the brethren to do so.

Art. 43. How is it considered if an individual moves out the fence of a brother's field, and the brother sends the sheriff and brings a suit of trespass; his case is brought before the church, and one bishop, with the teachers and deacons and other members, decide that the brother has done wrong, but the oldest bishop, with the other members, say that he had no other way to do, and when the voice was taken there was an equal number approving and disapproving the brother's course? Considered, that no member, or members, has a right to put the law in force against his fellow-man, without first taking the counsel of the church.

Art. 44. Is the gospel itself sufficient to preserve a union of practice throughout the brotherhood? Considered, that the gospel, with the practice or order consistent with the gospel, will preserve the union of the brotherhood.

Art. 45. Have a few members of a church the privilege to appoint a church meeting, and call for the assistance of brethren in other districts, without the council of the

church, or of the elders of the church? Considered, that brethren have no right to do so without counseling the elder brethren and the church.

Art. 46. Should the church receive a person that had been living in a state of matrimony awhile, and apparently did not live in peace; then, leaving his companion, gets married to another one, and, after some time, leaving the second one for the same reason he left the first, and while his first companion was yet living? Considered, that, according to the gospel, such a person should not be received into the church.

Art. 47. How is it considered, in the case of a brother who has been expelled from the church, and then takes up with a woman that has a husband living, and lives with her fifteen years; then her husband dies, and the two get lawfully married, and now he has made application to be taken into the church, and we desire the Yearly Meeting to give counsel what to do? Considered, that he may be received, provided he brings forth fruit meet for repentance.

Art. 48. How is it considered when brethren preach and argue that there is no difference between the soul and the body, and hell and the grave, and that there is no knowledge between death and the resurrection, and no punishment after death, but that the wicked will be immediately destroyed or annihilated? Answer: Such brethren should be sharply reproved of their errors, and if they will not hear the church, we can not hold such as brethren, much less as preachers.

Art. 49. A brother buys a farm that is sold by executors, who are not members of the church, and fails to make payment according to contract, the heirs being members of the church, who, after waiting a long time and being in great need of the money, and living over one hundred miles distant from the brother who bought the farm, receive a letter from him stating that he will pay them $500, if they will throw off the interest. The heirs, being unwilling to

do so, send word to their executors to collect the money by law. Are the heirs now under obligation to pay the cost of collection? Considered, that they are not under such obligation.

ART. 50. Is it agreeable to the gospel to hold a protracted meeting, say for one week or ten days in succession? Answer: As to the phrase "protracted meetings," we know nothing of it in the gospel; but as touching the frequency of the saints meeting together, we find no limits in the gospel, so they are held in the order of the house of God.

ART. 51. We desire to know whether the Lord has commanded us to have a school besides our common schools, such as the one contemplated in the "Gospel Visitor?" If we are, ought we not to have it soon? And if it is not commanded of the Lord, ought we to have one? And is it right to contend for or against such an institution publicly through the press, since our different views may become a stumbling-block before the world? And if it is once decided, ought we not to keep forever silent about it? Answer: Concerning the school proposed in the "Gospel Visitor," we think we have no right to interfere with an individual enterprise so long as there is no departure from gospel principles.

ART. 52. Is it right for a brother to go about taking likenesses with a Daguerrean apparatus? Considered, that it is not right. Rom. I. 23; Deut. XXVII. 15.

ART. 53. How is it considered when a brother who is forwarded to the Word as a minister of the first degree, attends meetings, makes appointments, or fills such when made by others who are not members of the church without counseling the church, or ordained brethren when there are such in the district where he was chosen? Considered, that as ministers are the servants of the church, they ought not to do any thing contrary to the will of the church, and when it is convenient they should always consult the church.

ART. 54. In case a woman has a husband and has lived with him in matrimony for a year or longer, and then the husband departs and leaves his wife, nothing being heard of him for four or five years, and said wife then marries a second husband, nothing being still heard of her former husband. Years pass on, say twenty-five or six, she living with the second husband all this time, and having children with him, and nothing is still heard of her first husband. Now, the said husband and wife make application to be received into the church. How shall we proceed in such a case? Answer: We think they might be received if the church feels satisfied the first husband is not living.

ART. 55. Would it not be well for the standing committee of this Yearly Meeting to appoint a number of intelligent and pious brethren to collect all the minutes that can be obtained of our Yearly Meetings and have them printed in a volume for the use and satisfaction of the churches? Considered, we think it not advisable to do so.

ART. 56. Is it advisable for ordained brethren to ordain a ministering brother to the office of elder or bishop, who permits his children, even while under lawful age, to wear all manner of jewelry, and to learn instrumental music at boarding schools, etc? Considered, not advisable. I. Tim. II. 9; III. 4, 5.

ART. 57. Can the brethren be in full communion with a brother or a communion of brethren, who do not hold a church council in receiving applicants for baptism, and who do not ask those who are baptized to renounce the devil and all the sinful practices of the world or flesh, and who do not practically follow the doctrine of self-denial? Considered, that we think such can not be in full communion with us. Acts x. 47; Prov. xv. 22; I. John II. 15–17; Titus II. 12.

ART. 58. Whereas, there is a strong desire among the brethren in various places to have a more general exertion made on the part of the church to have the truth more

universally spread; and, whereas, the subject has been frequently talked of without any definite plan being proposed, we, therefore, have concluded, by way of introduction, to offer the following outlines of a plan, subject, however, to such amendments as may from time to time be thought best; that is, let each state, where there is a respectable number of brethren, form a district; let the brethren there hold their annual meetings; let each of these divisions have its treasury; let the churches that feel favorable, have their treasury; let the churches be called upon as often as may be necessary to cast in their mite as a free-will offering. Then let these contributions be put into the district treasury, and let the district meetings appoint ministering brethren, say two or more, if necessary (such as are willing to go), to travel through the respective states for one year, their expenses being paid, and such provision made for their families as may be thought necessary. What does the Annual Meeting think of this proposition? Considered, that we think it not good to adopt this proposition, but we believe it is a subject worthy the serious and prayerful consideration of the brotherhood, and we recommend the brethren to give it such a consideration.

Art. 59. Requests for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit Conestoga Church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: John Glock, Samuel Harley, Jacob Hollinger, Daniel Hollinger and Peter Long. 2. A request for a committee to visit Painter Creek Church, Miami County, Ohio. The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: John P. Ebersole, John Metzger, Elias Dicky, George Shively, Jacob Miller, of Portage, David Hardman, of Indiana, George Hoover, Henry Davy and Abraham Moss. 3. A request for a committee to visit the Owl Creek Church, Knox County, Ohio. The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Elias Dicky,

Jacob Gerber, Peter Nead, Daniel Miller, John Metzger, and Henry Davy.

Art. 60. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from the Nettle Creek Church, Indiana, for the meeting of 1860. 2. A request from the Limestone Church, Washington County, Tennessee, for the meeting in 1860, was renewed, and granted. 3. A request from the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, was renewed. 4. A request from the Valley of Virginia for the meeting in 1861. 5. The request from the Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, being renewed, was granted. Hence our next Yearly Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1859. Johnstown, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, the nearest point on that road, is forty miles from the meeting-place. Cumberland, the nearest est point on the Baltimore and Ohio road, is twenty-five miles distant. Correspondence can be had with the following brethren in the church where the meeting will be held: John Berkley, Elias K. Beeghly, Daniel Beeghly, and Peter Meyers, Meyers' Mills, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Standing Committee: George Hoke, John Brower, Peter Nead, Daniel Miller, of Ohio; John Berkley, of Pennsylvania; John Kline, Peter Nininger, of Virginia; Isaac Pfoutz, of Maryland; George Shively, John Metzger, John Moyer, of Indiana; John Emmert, of Illinois.

D. P. Saylor, Clerk.

James Quinter, Assistant Clerk.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1859.

As usual, a large number of persons assembled on Saturday, and a meeting for worship was held in the afternoon. On Lord's-day, the congregation being very large, arrangements were made for having divine service performed at three different places in the immediate vicinity of the place designed for the General Council meeting. These meetings were all well attended, and good attention given to the Word preached.

On Monday morning the council-meeting was organized by appointing the following standing committee: John Kline, Jacob Thomas, Isaac Pfoutz, Daniel P. Sayler, John H. Umstad, Peter Long, John P. Ebersole, Henry Davy, Jacob Miller, John Metzger, Samuel Layman, David Rittenhouse, James Quinter, and John Berkley. Daniel P. Sayler and James Quinter were appointed clerks, and Daniel P. Sayler moderator.

The delegates then presented themselves, and the papers addressed to the council were received; and while business was preparing, public worship was, as usual, held on Monday.

There were represented, in this council-meeting, eighty-seven congregations. The delegates representing these congregations were divided into thirteen sub-committees, and to them were committed the queries designed to come before the General Council, in order that they might report upon them.

On Tuesday morning the brethren assembled for business. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer. After this, the object of the meeting was explained. The committees then began to present their reports, and it was ascertained that the following queries were before the meeting. These were considered in the fear of God, and examined

in the light of the Scriptures, and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. How is it considered if an elder gets in debt, and is sued, and is compelled to take the stay-law in order to get time to make arrangements to pay the claim, and pays it according to the time prescribed by law? Answer: We consider that he could do no better under such circumstances.

Art. 2. How is it considered if a church holds a council to consider the propriety of holding a love-feast, and all the members present are jointly agreed to have a communion meeting, and accordingly hold such a meeting; but afterward a member will say we had no love-feast, and will insist that it was only a meal, and not a love-feast? Answer: We consider that it is wrong for a member to do so, and that he should acknowledge it before the church to be a fault, or be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

Art. 3. How is it considered if a minister would publicly teach that water baptism is not for the remission of sins, but that a person must have an evidence within that his sins are pardoned before he is a fit subject for baptism; and, also, would differ with brethren in the mode of electing brethren to the ministry, and likewise claims that all members, both male and female, have a right to admonish and exhort? Answer: Considered, that it is not according to Acts ii. 38, and xxii. 16, to teach that a person must have an evidence within that his sins are pardoned before he is a fit subject for baptism, and that we know of no better way for the brethren to elect their ministers than that which has been practiced heretofore. And concerning members exhorting, without being authorized by the church, we think they should not do so in the church, in our public or general meetings, according to I. Cor. xiv. 33–35.

Art. 4. As secret societies seem to be multiplying, and as many young men around us join them, and as some un-

dertake a defense of them, it seems necessary that our minds need to be frequently stirred up upon this matter. Then, as we profess to be followers of Him who said, "In secret have I done nothing," will the Yearly Meeting, through its proceedings, come up to the side of our Lord? Answer: We consider that members should not participate in any secret or oath-bound societies whatever; and if, after they have been duly admonished, they persist in such participation, we consider the church is justifiable in excommunicating them.

ART. 5. Inasmuch as the ceremony used by the brethren, in receiving members into the church, is thought, by a large proportion of the brethren, to be of too great length, might it not be shortened? And, instead of the questions being asked in the water, would it not be more consistent to ask them in the house, or on the bank of the river or stream? Answer: We do not consider it good to make any alterations from the present practice of the brethren.

ART. 6. Have the brethren the privilege of singing a hymn or two without lining them, if some brother mentions the page, before the commencement of worship, while the congregation is assembling? And have ministering brethren the privilege to read a hymn, before lining and singing, at the opening of the public service? Answer: We consider these queries of but little import; but as singing is a part of divine worship, it should be conducted in order by those engaging in it. And whether a hymn should, or should not, be read previously to lining it, may be left to the option of those proposing the hymns.

ART. 7. Does the gospel admit of female preaching? and, if it does, shall they not have authority from the church under whose jurisdiction they are? Answer: As Paul recognizes a distinction, in Rom. XII. 6, 7, between teaching, ministering, and prophesying, and as he evidently approves of females prophesying (I. Cor. XI. 5), we then think that a female can not teach or preach, according to I. Cor. XIV.

34; I. Tim. II. 12, in the ordinary acceptation of those terms, yet we can not, under all, forbid them to prophesy.

ART. 8. Shall the answer to the seventeenth query of 1858 continue as it is there given? Answer: We consider it best to leave it as it is. The query and answer above referred to, are as follows:

"Is it right for a speaker to sing a hymn, or a part of a hymn, at the time of the communion, when the wine is passing round? Considered, it is right to do so."

ART. 9. Is it considered to be right to call prayer-meetings social meetings? Answer: It is considered right to do so.

ART. 10. If a brother has held meetings according to the twenty-sixth article of the minutes of 1858 (there being few members, and none of the ministers of the district in which the meeting was held, present), and would, to his knowledge, receive a person that is a Freemason into the church, without renouncing more of Masonry than just the wearing of the badge and the marching in parade; and the ministers and members of the district in which said member resides would afterward require a full renunciation, and he would refuse, and still claim the privilege of attending the lodge, etc., justifying himself by saying he had made no such promise at his reception; what shall be done in such a case? Answer: If such a brother shall refuse to hear the church, he shall be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII. 17.

ART. 11. Inasmuch as the brethren, in Annual Council, last year, in Art. 8, decided that the public practical use of the spiritual gifts, such as exhortation, teaching, doctrine, and prophesying, seem to be the duties and privileges belonging to the officers of the church; now, where the bishop, with the majority of his members, are not willing to be governed and regulated by the above decision, and where, also, some of them disregard other decisions of the Annual Conference, such as forbid holding in fellowship those who

will not renounce Freemasonry, taking part in debating schools, and holding offices under the civil government, and say that the brethren, in conference last year, decided in favor of things which were not in accordance with the gospel. What shall the minority in such a church do? To whom shall they apply to have such bishop and members regulated according to the order of the brethren and the Bible? Answer: Such a minority of brethren in a church have full privilege to call brethren from another arm of the church, in order to investigate and adjust matters, upon the condition that said minority apprise the majority of their intention to call brethren, should they think it best to call for assistance from other churches.

ART. 12. Is it wrong for one brother to take a note of another brother? And is it wrong for the holder of the note to exchange it for a piece of land, after it was due (three years), by withholding the collection of the note for the time specified by the giver of the note? And is it wrong to ask a mortgage to secure such a note, where the giver mortgages all his property out of his hands? Answer: We do not consider it wrong. This answer is designed for each of the above questions.

ART. 13. Is it right for a member of the church to have his property set off, where the law allows a certain amount, say three hundred dollars? Answer: We think it is not right.

ART. 14. What shall we do when brethren, and even speakers and bishops, attend yearly the county fairs? Answer: Such brethren should be admonished not to attend such places, and if they still persist in doing so, they should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 15. How is it considered when a bishop moves from his district into a third district, and takes no letter of recommendation along with him, but wants to retain the oversight of the church he has left, and says he will still keep his standing in that church during his life, although he is

frequently absent from their regular meetings? Answer: He should have a letter of recommendation from the church from which he moved, and if the distance is not too great, he may still retain the oversight of that church, while his doing so may produce no difficulties.

Art. 16. We wish to know how to proceed with a brother, who resides in one branch of the church, but does not attend council-meetings and love-feasts in the branch in which he resides, but when there are love-feasts in the adjoining districts he attends them. Answer: Such a brother should be visited, and the cause why he does not attend the meetings in his own congregation ascertained. (See Heb. x. 23–25.) And if he should be disobedient (see Matt. xviii. 17.)

Art. 17. A man's wife leaves him for no just cause, and she then obtains a bill of divorcement; after this she marries another man; and then, in consequence of this, the husband left, was divorced, and also marries another woman, after some time, with whom he is now living; and he having become convinced of the truth, has made application for baptism. Can he be received into the church? Answer: We think he can not, while living with the last woman as a husband. (See I. Cor. vii. 10, 11.)

Art. 18. Is it considered in order for a ministering brother to refuse to labor at home, while he goes out and fills appointments in neighboring churches? Answer: We consider such a course inconsistent with the spirit of the gospel, but recommend that all such questions be investigated at home, in the churches in which they originate.

Art. 19. Is it right for brethren to salute with the holy kiss expelled members, when such go through other districts, and are known by the brethren to be expelled? Answer: We consider it not right to do so; and any brother or sister saluting a person whom he or she knows was expelled, should be admonished, and if he refuses to hear the admonition, he should be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

ART. 20. Is it agreeable with the gospel for members to hold prayer-meetings, or, what they are some times called, social meetings, and to invite members of other denominations to unite with us in prayer? Answer: We consider it agreeable with the gospel to hold such meetings, when they are strictly held in order; but as we do not call upon our own members, individually, to pray, it is not in our order of holding such meetings, to call on those of other denominations to pray.

ART. 21. A man marries his uncle's wife, but afterward thinks he discovers it forbidden in Levit. XVIII. 14, and XX. 20, and separates from her. He then marries another woman. He now desires to be received into the church. Can he be received, as the first woman is still living, and in a married connection with another man? Answer: According to the civil law, the first marriage would be considered lawful, and, consequently, the second marriage is contrary to the gospel, and he can not, therefore, be received into the church by baptism, while he, and the woman with whom he is living, are living together in the relation of man and wife.

ART. 22. Is it according to the gospel, and the rules of the brethren, for a brother in the second degree of the ministry to appoint a prayer-meeting, without the consent of the bishop and other brethren in the church? Answer: We think it is not. The Apostle Paul declares that God is a God of order, and such a course does not seem to be in order. And the Apostle Peter's language (I. Peter v. 5, 6) would likewise seem to disapprove of such a course.

ART. 23. In those states where muster fines are high, and where the fines are the only means whereby the military musters are kept up, would it not be better for brethren to muster a few times and thereby cause the military system to be abolished, than to pay an oppressive fine and thereby keep up the regimental muster? Answer: It would not, inasmuch as our Lord and Savior teaches non-resistance in

gospel throughout. And when we go to musters we there learn the art of war, and the most appropriate method of shedding our fellow-creatures' blood. (See II. Cor. VI. 17; John XVIII. 36.)

ART. 24. Is it becoming for members of the church of Christ to get the walls of their houses flowered, or papered with flowered paper? Answer: We exhort all of our dear brethren to humility, for the apostle says (Rom. XII. 2), "Be not conformed to this world," etc. Humility is one of the prominent principles taught by our dear Redeemer, in precept and example. We ought, therefore, to try and abstain from superfluities.

ART. 25. In case brethren put a bell on their meeting-house, will their course be approved by the Yearly Meeting? Answer: This Annual Meeting can not approve of brethren doing so.

ART. 26. Does the gospel, in any case, allow a member of the church to use the power of the law in collecting a debt, or in defense of his rights? And if going to law is wrong, does the sanction of the church make it right? We also desire queries thirty-two and forty-nine of the minutes of 1858, to be reconsidered by this Annual Meeting. Answer: We can not give our members liberty to go to law; and if any of them do go to law, the congregation in which such reside shall take the case up and act on it as it thinks the gospel requires. This answer, it was thought, is sufficient for the whole query, as the different points in it refer to the same general subject.

ART. 27. In relation to the questions from Owl Creek Church, Knox County, Ohio, growing out of the serious difficulties which that church has concerning its meeting-house, the following advice was given: We consider it best that the brethren, in meekness and patience, wait for the further manifestation of the will of God upon the matter. And it was recommended that the case be remembered by the brethren in general in prayer.

ART. 28. Seeing the great necessity of having the gospel, as held and praticed by the brethren, more extensively spread and known, we desire that the brethren in this Annual Council reconsider the fifty-eighth article of the minutes of 1858, and adopt it with such amendments as, in the fear of the Lord, may seem best. As it was recommended by the last Annual Meeting to make the subject of spreading the gospel one of prayerful consideration, it appears it was done; and several churches have expressed their wish to this Annual Council meeting to have it take a favorable action upon the subject, the following is the conclusion this Annual Meeting has come to in relation to what is referred to in this article. This meeting recommend and give liberty to any of the districts or states to make a move on the subject of spreading and sustaining the gospel, as preached and understood by the brethren, so that the same may be done in the order of the gospel. And we recommend to those churches which may adopt this to make a report to the next Annual Meeting upon their success. And, in view of the importance of the subject, we appoint the following brethren as a committee to propose some plan by which the brotherhood in general may take a part in this good work; said plan to be reported to the next Annual Meeting: Daniel P. Sayler, John Kline, John H. Umstad, Samuel Layman, John Metzger, and James Quinter. Daniel P. Sayler is the corresponding member of the committee.

ART. 29. Can a minister, who is not ordained, with the counsel of the church, expel a member, or must there be an ordained elder present? Answer: It is not necessary for an ordained elder to be present, if the member to be expelled is a private member.

ART. 30. If a brother in the ministry or deaconship move from one congregation to another, having a certificate of good standing in his office, has the congregation to which he moved a right to refuse to receive him with his office? Answer: We consider they have not.

ART. 31. Is it according to the gospel and its principles for brethren of our fraternity to salute with the holy kiss those who do not stand in the faith with us, nor practice or keep the ordinances of the Lord as we do? And is it according to the gospel to call such brethren, and give them liberty to take part in our public worship? Answer: As a general thing we do not think it is expedient to do so.

ART. 32. How is it considered when ministering brethren from one church will come into another church and preach with an expelled bishop, who is building up a church of his own, and also visit all of the dissatisfied members, causing much confusion and dissatisfaction in the church by doing so; and when lay members go to hear him preach who has been expelled? Answer: We consider it wrong to do so. And such brethren should be admonished, and if they will not be submissive and acknowledge, they should be dealt with according to the gospel.

ART. 33. If a member of a church moves from one congregation into another, and is afterward called back again by the said congregation from which he had moved, for some offense, and is expelled; he then applies for membership to the congregation he now lives in, but is sent back by it to the congregation that expelled him to see whether it could release him or be reconciled with him, and it does release him upon his confession and repentance. Now which congregation is to receive him into membership? Answer: He should be received by the same church that expelled him, and that church should give him a certificate, and that will give him a membership in the church to which he has removed.

ART. 34. Is it according to the gospel for brethren, when giving admonition to the church after the annual visit has been made, to name members against whom something is alleged, in General Council, or shall we proceed with them according to the eighteenth chapter of Matthew? Answer: We ought to proceed according to the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, except in cases of open violation of the gospel.

ART. 35. Several communications were sent to this Annual Meeting from the brethren hitherto distinguished as Western brethren. From these communications we shall give some extracts, as we have not room upon the minutes to give them entire:

"Beloved Brethren: We, the brethren in Adams County, Illinois, met together in council to take into consideration the course we had best adopt respecting the Yearly Meeting. On account of the great distance we are from the place of meeting, and none of us being in a situation suitable to take such a journey, we have concluded to send you these lines to inform you that after we received the minutes of last conference, held in Indiana, we called a church council, and we concluded, for the sake of union in the brotherhood, to adopt the minutes of last Yearly Meeting, and we intend to carry them out as near as circumstances will admit of. * * * * * *

"We further state that we are willing to counsel and be counseled by the Yearly Meeting." Signed by Elder George Wolf, and others, by order of the church.

The following extract is from a letter from Sugar Creek Church, Sangamon County, Illinois:

"We have unanimously agreed to be fully united with our beloved elder brethren, to counsel and be counseled. And we have put in practice the order in receiving and baptizing members, non-swearing and non-conformity to the world." Signed by Elder Isham Gibson, and others, by order of the church.

From the brethren in Hurricane Creek district, Bond County, Illinois:

"Dear Brethren in the Lord: Considering your love and care for us as manifested by your kind forbearance and long suffering toward us, we in love to you and all saints, thought it good to send you this epistle, and also brother Daniel B. Sturgis, delegate from this district, witnessing that we desire full fellowship and union. And we unani-

mously agree to be counseled by the brethren, and submit to all the decisions of our beloved brethren in conference. We believe the best good of all is maintained by a full subjection to the decisions of the Yearly Meetings, published in the minutes." Signed by Daniel B. Sturgis, and others, by order of the church.

The following is the expression of this Annual Meeting upon the subject referred to in the above communications: Whereas, it is known that what have been called the Western brethern have not heretofore been in perfect union with our churches in observing the ordinances and regulations in the house of God; and, whereas, a number of communications have come before this council-meeting from said brethren, expressing a strong desire to be in full fellowship with our brotherhood, and promising to submit to and be governed by the rules by which we think the house of God should be governed; therefore, considered that we have cause to thank God that the efforts made to bring about a union have been so successful, and we are now happy to recongnize them as being in full fellowship with us.

Art. 36. Requests for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit Sugar Creek Church, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, to investigate grievances. The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Elias Dicky, Henry Davy, Jacob Garver, of Mohickon, Ohio. 2. A request for a committee to visit Upper Conowago Church, Adams County, Pennsylvania. The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Peter Long, Philip Boyle and Christian Keefer.

Art. 37. A resolution was passed returning thanks to those railroad companies which took persons attending the meeting over their roads for half fare.

Art. 38. Requests for the Annual Meeting. 1. A request from the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for 1861. 2. A request from Hagerstown, Wayne

County, Indiana, for 1860. 3. A request from the Valley of Virginia for 1861. 4. A request from the Miami Valley, Ohio, for the Annual Meeting whenever the brethren assembled in Annual Council think it suitable to appoint it there. The request from the brethren of Limestone Congregation, Tennessee, was renewed and granted. Our next Annual Meeting, therefore, will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in Washington County, Tennessee, on Pentecost, 1860. Brethren coming to the meeting will come to Limestone depot, on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, which will be about three miles from the place of meeting. Correspondence can be held with the following brethren: Emanuel Arnold, David B. Klepper, and Jacob Nead, Broylesville, Washington County, Tennessee.

Standing committee, etc.: John Kline, Jacob Thomas, of Virginia; Daniel P. Sayler, Isaac Pfoutz, of Maryland; John P. Ebersole, Henry Davy, James Quinter, of Ohio; Jacob Miller, John Metzger, of Indiana; Samuel Layman, David Rittenhouse, of Illinois; John H. Umstad, Peter Long, John Berkley, of Pennsylvania.

D. P. Sayler, J. Quinter. } Clerks.

D. P. Sayler, Moderator

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1860.

It having been announced that the meeting would commence on Saturday, accordingly, at an early hour in the morning, a large congregation was assembled for worship, and public meetings for worship were held on Saturday, Sunday, and on the morning of Monday. The best accommodations were made that could be made on the occasion, for affording the people present facilities for hearing the

gospel preached, and a good degree of attention was given, and considerable interest manifested.

On Monday morning the council-meeting was organized by appointing the following standing committee: Peter Nead, J. P. Ebersole, John Metzger, Christian Long, Henry Koontz, John Kline, Daniel Barnhart, Abraham Neff, and Peter Nininger. Daniel P. Sayler and James Quinter were appointed clerks, and Daniel P. Sayler moderator.

The delegates then presented themselves to the standing committee, and the various papers addressed to the council were received.

The representation in this Annual Council was unusually small, there being but few delegates from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, and none at all from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There were represented in the council but sixty churches. The delegates present were divided into five sub-committees, and to these were committed the papers designed to come before the General Council, in order that they might report upon them.

On Monday afternoon the brethren assembled in council for business. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises. The object of the meeting was then stated, after which the committees began to present their reports, and it was ascertained that the following queries for consideration were before the council. They were considered in the fear of God, and examined in the light of the Scriptures, and answered as herein stated.

The first business in order before the meeting was the report of the committee, appointed by the last Annual Meeting (see Minutes of 1859, Art. 28), to prepare and report a plan for the work of evangelism. Accordingly, the committee, to whom the matter was referred, presented the following report:

The committee appointed at the Annual Meeting in 1859, twenty-eighth article, to propose some plan to the present meeting by which the brotherhood in general may take

some part in the good work of the Lord in preaching the gospel more generally, reports as follows: "Whereas, the preaching of the gospel to every creature is a command of Christ, since he said to his disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark XVI. 15), and therefore a duty enjoined upon all his disciples. Hence, it needs no argument in its defense. The only point to be considered is, How shall it be done? Now St. Paul says, "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?" (I. Cor. IX. 7); and as the Lord Jesus gave every man his work, as well as his servants authority. Mark XIII. 34: "For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work." It is, therefore, evident that he did not mean that his ministering servants should be burdened with the duty of preaching his word, and also bearing the expenses incurred in traveling from place to place, while all the members of the body remain idle. The committee understands the Lord Jesus to mean that the church, his body on earth (I. Cor. XII. 27), shall, unitedly, preach his gospel in all the world, by the ministry, through the Holy Ghost; and, therefore, the church should pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers, for so Jesus commanded his disciples, saying: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Matt. IX. 37, 38. And it appears, from the following account in Acts XIII. 2, 3, that this was the practice of the apostolic church: "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

And, in view of the above considerations, the committee offers the following advice: That the churches of the brotherhood form themselves into districts, the brethren in

those districts to meet as often as they may judge it neces sary to transact their business; that each of said districts has its treasury, and each one of the churches which form said districts has its treasury, the former to be supplied out of the latter, and the latter to be supplied by weekly contributions, as directed by the Apostle Paul (I. Cor. xvi. 2): "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come,"—a plan for raising pecuniary funds, of divine appointment, and is one which commends itself to our acceptance, both from its authority and excellency.

And in order that the funds collected may be the most judiciously, satisfactorily, and economically applied, we advise that each sub-district or church appoint at least one delegate to attend the general district meetings, and that these meetings so dispose of the funds collected as they shall judge most conducive to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. And in order to preserve a proper harmony between all the congregations of the brotherhood, we further advise that each general district meeting sends a delegate to the Annual Meeting, and by the delegate a report of its proceedings, that all such proceedings may be in harmony with the regulations, as made by the brethren assembled in Annual Council, and subject to the inspection and control of that body. And in case any demands of a general character for evangelists are made, sufficiently so to require the action of the Annual Meeting, then, in that case, the funds needed to defray the expenses of said evangelists shall be drawn from the treasuries of the several districts.

And as the conviction of mind seems to be general among the brethren that greater exertion should be made by the brotherhood to have the gospel preached in every place, the committee would remind the ministry that the foregoing plan is by no means designed to supersede the labors

of our ministers in their individual capacities. But we recommend to all our preachers to labor, as they have been accustomed to do, without money and without price, as far as their circumstances will permit them to do so, showing, as they have hitherto done, in a remarkable degree, the Christian grace of self-denial—a grace which shone brightly in the life of our divine Master, and which occupies a prominent place in his teaching.

We further recommend to all our preachers to submit the above plan to their congregations, hoping that it will meet with their acceptance.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the committee, D. P. Sayler, John Kline, John Metzger, James Quinter.

The committee appointed by the last Annual Meeting to report a plan to the present meeting for the work of evangelism, presented the above report, and it was considered that this Annual Meeting thinks it best, as there are so few churches represented, not to adopt it as the work of this meeting, but postpones it for the consideration of the next Annual Meeting, and concludes it best to have it entered upon the minutes for the examination of the brethren. But while this council-meeting can not, for the reason above given, adopt the prepared report, it acknowledges the necessity of increased efforts among us to spread the gospel, and still gives the liberty that was given by the last Annual Council, to any of the churches which may see their way open to do so, to engage in the work of evangelism.

Hereupon the following queries were considered:

Article 1. Inasmuch as we publicly denounce (human) church discipline, and claim the New Testament Scriptures as the only rule of our faith and practice, is it, then, consistent with our profession to make a strict observance of the minutes of the Annual Council a test of fellowship? Answer: The decisions of the Annual Meeting are obliga-

tory until such decisions shall be repealed by the same authority.

Art. 2. Ought not Art. 33, of the minutes of 1859, be reconsidered? (The article referred to is this: "If a member of a church moves from one congregation into another, and is afterward called back again by the said congregation from which he had moved, for some offense, and is expelled: he then applies for membership to the congregation he now lives in, but is sent back by it to the congregation that expelled him, to see whether it could release him, or be reconciled with him, and it does release him upon his confession and repentance. Now, which congregation is to receive him into membership?") Answer: The expelled member must be received by the church that expelled him, or make full satisfaction to that church, in person or by letter, and then he can be received into the church in which he lives.

Art. 3. What is to be done with the following case: A brother buys real estate, and becomes much involved in debt by borrowing money, and otherwise, and then, to secure some one or two of his creditors, mortgages all of his real estate to them. He afterward appoints a trustee to sell his property, which does not cover the liens against it, and the wife, who is a sister, takes from the trustee a portion of the personal property, in consideration of her relinquishing her potential right of dower, while much money will be lost by the creditors? Answer: If the church in which the case exists is satisfied that there was no intention to defraud, on the part of the brother, and that the sister, by taking the personal property, as stated, was an advantage, rather than a disadvantage, in the sale of the real estate, it may retain them as members under a satisfactory acknowledgment.

Art. 4. Shall it be an order among the brethren to receive persons into the church as members, when they are sick, without baptism, with the promise that they will be baptized when they get well? Answer: Let persons who

wish to be received into the church, and who are too sick to have the ordinance of baptism administered to them, be considered candidates for baptism, to receive the ordinance as soon as circumstances will permit, but not in full membership until they are baptized.

Art. 5. How is it considered when members of the church, that are sick, call for the elders of the church, and are anointed according to the gospel, and then again resort to the use of medicine; is it wrong to do so? Answer: We do not consider it wrong, according to the gospel, to do so.

Art. 6. As we see a difference in the words used in anointing the sick, we therefore ask for the most proper ceremony and manner for observing the same, according to the gospel and practice of the old brethren. Answer: As the difference is not stated in the query, we know of nothing better than that which the brethren have given us in the appendix to the minutes of 1853. The following is the order referred to:

About the anointing of the sick. (See Art. 43.) (From the minutes of the Yearly Meeting, in Augusta County, Virginia, in the year 1827.)

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Of the order of anointing the sick. The order has ever been, in the first place to sing a few lines, and to turn to God in a united prayer. Then (there ought always to be two brethren) the one holds out his hand, and the other pours the oil on it, and the first putteth the same on the head of the sick, and says the words which the Apostle James teacheth (chap. v. 14): "Thou art anointed in the name of the Lord," and thus three times, but the words only once said. Then both brethren lay their hands upon the head of the sick, and pray over him; for it is not considered to be intended only an inward unction, but an outward anointing, whereof the apostle speaks, as mentioned before.

(From manuscript accounts of elder brethren concerning the same, and exhibiting it more particularly.) As regards the anointing, it requires two brethren in order to perform it according to the advice of the apostle, since he says: "Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him." These words require more than one. Now, when we are going to perform the same, the first we do, after singing a few appropriate lines and briefly exhorting, is to turn to God, unitedly, and to pray God for a blessing upon ourselves, upon the sick member, and upon all, as we do in a meeting, and there is liberty to pray for all the brethren present. If time will permit, and strangers are present, the passage from James v. may be read, as far as relates to this matter, and briefly commented upon. Then the sick member is raised to a sitting posture, and the elder brother reacheth forth his hand, and the other brother pours the oil upon it, which he, the first, puts upon the head of the sick, and thus three times saying the words of the apostle: "Thou art anointed in the name of the Lord, unto the strengthening of thy faith, unto the comforting of thy conscience, and unto a full assurance of the remission of thy sins," or as the Lord may give utterance; and then the brethren both put their hands on the sick, even as it is done when a brother is ordained, and pray chiefly for the sick member. Such an example we have of the Savior, as we see in Mark VI. 15, and XVI. 18, and this is the order the brethren have administered the same. Brethren, also, who are not ordained, may administer it in cases of necessity.

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ART. 7. How is it considered when a brother has been elected to the ministry, but who has never exercised in his office, and who has no confidence in his ability to be useful, asks, after eighteen months from the time he was elected to the office, to be released from serving? Answer: We think the time specified above is too short to try a brother,

and we think the brethren had better encourage such a brother to speak and exercise in his office, but let him not be over urged.

ART. 8. Inasmuch as in the minutes of 1849, tenth query, the stock of railroads and banks are coupled together, we desire the Annual Meeting of 1860 to consider each subject separately, and to give an answer to each. Answer: We advise brethren not to invest their money in bank stock at all, and would advise them to be cautious of all incorporated companies.

ART. 9. We, the brethren, assembled in general district council, at the Valley meeting-house, in Botetourt County, Virginia, desire that the brethren in the Annual Council meeting of 1860 devise some plan or way to remodel, or enlarge by appendix, our hymn-book, so as to satisfy the wants of the brethren. Answer: To comply with the above request, this Annual Meeting appoints a committee of five to make a new hymn-book, with the understanding that as many of the hymns in the present book as possible be retained. The following brethren constitute the committee: James Quinter, Ohio; Samuel Garber, Illinois; John Metzger, Indiana; John H. Umstad, Pennsylvania; John Kline, Virginia.

ART. 10. A brother has a wife, who is not a member of the church, and she refuses to live with him peaceably; and having been living apart from him for more than two years, the brethren acquainted with the circumstances believing the wife to be the cause of the trouble, she now demands a divorce. Now, brethren, we would be very glad if you will give us advice in this case. Answer: We think a brother can not grant or accept of a divorce for any cause but that of fornication. "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced, committeth adultery." Matt. v. 32; I. Cor. VII. 15.

ART. 11. Is it consistent with the order of the brethren, and the gospel, to receive a member into the church without the counsel of the church, when it is practicable to have a council? Answer: It is not consistent.

ART. 12. Whereas, the brethren in California and Oregon have earnestly desired and requested a delegation of two or three brethren to be sent, by the Annual Council of the brethren, to encourage and strengthen them, and "to set in order the things needed" for a proper organization of churches according to the gospel of Christ, as well as to preach the gospel where Christ is not known. The meeting, therefore, receiving with favor the request, came to the following conclusion concerning the subject: It was decided that the standing committee of this Annual Meeting form a board for the purpose of corresponding with brethren, and of ascertaining if any seem to be called to the work, and of judging of their fitness for it, and for making the necessary arrangements for carrying out the purpose of this Annual Meeting, to comply with the request from the brethren in California and Oregon. And in order to obtain the necessary pecuniary aid, this meeting recommends to all the churches to make contributions for the purpose, and to report to the board the result of their operations. James Quinter, of Columbiana, Columbiana County, Ohio, was appointed corresponding secretary, and Daniel P. Sayler, Double Pipe Creek, Carroll County, Maryland, treasurer.

ART. 13. Requests for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit the Limestone congregation, in Washington County, Tennessee, to settle existing difficulties. The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: John Wine, Martin Miller, Jacob Miller, Peter Crumpacker, Benjamin Moomaw, Jacob Wine, and Martin Garber. 2. This Annual Meeting ascertaining that difficulties exist in the church in Cedar County, Missouri, appoints the following brethren as a committee to visit said church, and to settle the difficulties: John Metz-

ger, Jacob Brower, and David Brower. 3. A request for a committee to visit the Ridge Church, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to investigate grievances therein existing. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Henry Koontz, Christian Keefer, George Beer, Peter Long, and David Bosserman.

ART. 14. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from the Miami churches, Ohio, for the meeting of 1862, was renewed. 2. The request from the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the meeting of 1863, was renewed. 3. A request from the Wayne County Church, Indiana, for the meeting of 1862. 4. A request from Appanoose County Church, Iowa, for the meeting, but no time named. 5. The request from the Valley of Virginia, for the meeting of 1861, was renewed, and granted. Hence, our next Annual Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in the Valley of Virginia, on Pentecost, 1861. Beaver Creek congregation, Rockingham County, has been selected as the place for the meeting. Correspondence can be held with the following brethren: John Wine, Martin Miller, and Daniel Thomas, Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Virginia. Directions to brethren coming to the Annual Meeting of 1861, by public conveyance: Those coming from the south and southwest, will come to Staunton by railroad, and from that place to Mt. Crawford, which is seven miles from the place of meeting. Those coming from the northwest and east, will come by the city of Washington, to Alexandria, and then take the Manassas Gap Railroad to Mt. Jackson, and thence to Harrisonburg by stage. The place of meeting is ten miles from Harrisonburg. Further information will be given through the "Visitor" in due time.

Standing committee, etc.: Peter Nead, J. P. Ebersole, of Ohio; Henry Koontz, D. P. Sayler, of Maryland; John Kline, Daniel Barnhart, Abraham Neff, Peter Nininger, of

Virginia; John Metzger, of Indiana; Christian Long, of Illinois.

D. P. Sayler, J. Quinter. } Clerks.

D. P. Sayler, Moderator.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1861.

Pursuant to appointment made on Pentecost last at Annual Meeting in Washington County, Tennessee, the brethren met in Annual Council. A very large congregation having assembled, public worship was commenced on Sunday morning, at the usual time, and conducted at three different places: in the meeting-house, in the tent, and in the grove, at each of which places the people assembled in dense crowds, as far as the speaker could be heard understandingly, and still there were many who did not get any benefit of the preaching, for which there seemed to be an ardent desire; so much so, that all the meeting-houses in the surrounding country and villages were opened for our use, and pressing invitations given to the brethren to occupy them.

It was therefore to be regretted that there were not more ministering brethren present. The brethren here had also made extensive preparations for the bodily comfort of those who should be with them, and seemed to lament much that the brethren from distant parts were not with them to share in their hospitality, as well as in the spiritual feast they had anticipated. Nevertheless, as there were many brethren and sisters present, we enjoyed a feast of fat things together, forgetting, for the time being, the confusion of the political affairs without, owing to which many of the churches, composing our common fraternity, were not represented.

But, not wishing, by any means, to change the regular usages of the church whereby the fraternal bond of our common brotherhood might be affected, we have, therefore, with those elders and brethren who have assembled, after having dedicated ourselves anew to God, concluded to proceed, with the business before us, in the regular way. Accordingly, the queries presented were considered, and disposed of in the manner following, to-wit:

ARTICLE 1. Are we to understand by the grant of social meetings, as decided in Annual Meeting of 1858, to make public appointments frequently where there is an organized church and preaching every two weeks, and in conducting them, liberty to be given to any brother or sister, or, if time admit, for all to rise to their feet by course, and exhort; and, if not so to be understood, what will the Annual Council say the order of social meetings shall be? Considered, that the order should be according to that rule laid down by the apostle in I. Cor. XIV. 27–40. And to unite with other professors in worship in our meetings is inconsistent with the gospel and the practice of the church.

ART. 2. Is it in harmony with the spirit of the gospel, when brethren teach school, at the expiration of the term, to hold exhibitions, attended with music? Considered, that it is not, and that brethren would better close by singing and prayer. (See James v. 13, and Eph. v. 19.)

ART. 3. Inasmuch as the brethren have decided, in conference, that members who would not conform to the order in dress as generally practiced by the old brethren and sisters, that they could not have the privilege to the communion. But, as this does not restrain them into the order, we wish to know whether the church has the right to deal with them as offenders when they will not conform in dress or to wearing caps, and leave off wearing hoops? Considered, that such members should be admonished, and that warmly, too, to lay aside all superfluities and conform to the order

of the church. Otherwise they must and will be regarded as disobedient members. (See Romans XII.)

ART. 4. How would it be considered where a brother and sister hold personal property and real estate, and the brother dies; has the sister a right to take the benefit of the law and hold three hundred dollars of the personal property and one-third of the real estate, and by so doing so injure the sale of the other two-thirds of the real estate that it will not sell for near its value, and will not pay more than one-half of the indebtedness of the estate, whereas, if she had let the whole of the land be sold together, it would have paid all the debts, and then left to her one-third of the money. Considered, that as it is impossible for all the circumstances to be known in such cases to an Annual Meeting, therefore such things ought to be settled by committees at home, selected by the parties and the church.

ART. 5. Is it considered right, according to the gospel, for a member to hold forfeit-money under any circumstances whatever? Considered, that it is not right when the holder is not injured by the transaction, and if he is, he should only keep enough to indemnify himself for such loss.

ART. 6. Will this Yearly Meeting grant the privilege to reprint all the minutes of the Yearly Meetings, so that those wishing to have them may have a full copy? Resolved, by this Annual Meeting, that this subject should be attended to, and we therefore recommend that a committee be appointed to gather up all the minutes, as far back as can be had, and bring them together in such a way and form as may be thought best, and we hereby appoint brethren Henry Kurtz, of Ohio, Andrew Spanogle, of Pennsylvania, John Kline, of Virginia, Christian Long, of Illinois, and Philip Boyle, of Maryland, to attend to said business, and report to next Yearly Meeting.

ART. 7. Contains a remonstrance from the Sugar Creek Church, Allen County, Ohio, as follows: "Having assembled in council, and having under consideration the mis-

sionary question, we, the church aforesaid, enter our remonstrance against all plans that have been recommended through the 'Visitor,' save the one on page 279, of September number last." All business upon this subject is referred to the next Yearly Meeting.

ART 8. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to administer the communion to the sick or disabled members in the day time, and without celebrating the other ordinances connected with it? Considered, not according to the gospel, because the Master instituted it in the night. However, there is no impropriety in attending to it, if done in the regular way and at the proper time, in connection with the other ordinances instituted with it.

ART. 9. When expelled members, upon application, are readmitted, how shall they be received by the church? Considered, that the applicating member be received by the hand of fellowship and the kiss of charity; but that the (reinstated) brother or sister go around to all the members, and (in order to) be received by them.

ART. 10. How is it considered if brethren suffer their children to take an active part in school debates and exhibitions? Considered, that there can be no objection, if conducted in an orderly manner; and we advise brethren (at the same time not to forget) to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

ART. 11. Shall members be allowed to go to the Lord's table and partake of the bread and the cup of the Lord, and when so done afterward bring up old complaints again, or, shall the church act upon such complaints or not? Considered, that when any matter has once been fairly investigated by the church, or settled between two parties, the decision should be final, and if a member should afterward revive it, they should be held responsible and fall into the dealings of the church, more especially after having partaken of the communion.

ART. 12. Shall the church receive a complaint against a

member before the offended brother go and tell his brother his fault between himself and him alone or not? Considered, that if we would read the rule of life as contained in Matt. XVIII, we would find no need of originating such questions.

ART. 13. Resolved, that we are opposed to a treasury for the exclusive benefit of the ministry, but that every church should encourage their ministers to be active in their calling, and also to support them in all cases of necessity. Considered, that we fully concur in the sentiment above expressed.

ART. 14. That we are in favor of postponing the revision of our hymn-books. Considered, since a committee was appointed, by last Yearly Meeting, to attend to this business, and circumstances preventing their action, we are in favor of extending the same committee, to consummate the work assigned them at their earliest convenience.

ART. 15. Would it not be better, and give more satisfaction to the brotherhood at large, if the brethren serving or composing the standing committee at our Annual Meetings would be changed every year, so as to have at least two-thirds of the same fresh members? Considered, that we do not think it advisable to make any change in the manner of choosing the standing committee, and are still satisfied with the decision of the Yearly Meeting of 1853. (See Article 1, in the minutes of that year.)

ART. 16. Is it proper or profitable for brethren to engage in public discussions with other professors upon religious or other subjects? Considered, that we think it right to defend the gospel, when interrogated (or assailed) either in private or public; but that we should not engage in worldly or political subjects, at least not to discuss them publicly.

ART. 17. A committee being requested to go to Kansas, Breckenridge County, etc., to settle all matters of difficulty existing there, we, the standing committee, do appoint the following brethren to attend to this business to-wit: John

Metzger, of Indiana, Christian Long, of Illinois, and Samuel Lehman, also of Illinois.

Art. 18. And there being a call for a committee to attend and settle matters in the Leading Creek, and also in the church on Dryfork, in Randolph County, Virginia, the call is favorably received, and the following brethren are hereby appointed, viz.: Joseph Arnold, of Hampshire, Jacob Miller, of Rockingham, and Jacob Wine, of Shenandoah, Virginia.

Art. 19. As to the mode of setting apart suitable brethren for the proposed Pacific mission, we recommend that the vote of the whole church be taken, and that the two brethren receiving the vote of the greatest number of churches shall be declared elected, and if either of them could not go, then the next highest, etc.; and we further recommend that all the churches take immediate action, and report to the corresponding secretary of the board appointed for that purpose. For information, refer to the minutes of last Yearly Meeting (1860.)

Art. 20. The request of the churches in the Miami Valley (Ohio) for the Yearly Meeting in 1862, was favorably received and granted; therefore, the Lord willing, our Yearly Meeting will take place, on Pentecost next, in Bro. Abraham Erbaugh's district, ten miles from Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, three miles from Brookville station, on the Dayton & Union Railroad. Letters addressed to Bro. Erbaugh, New Lebanon, Montgomery County, Ohio, will be attended to.

We, the brethren composing the standing committee, do hereby annex our names in testimony of our consent to the decisions of the queries before the meeting:

Joseph Arnold, George Shaver, Peter Crumpacker, Martin Miller, Daniel Miller, of Ohio.

John Kline, Moderator.

Benjamin F. Moomaw, Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1862.

A very large number of persons having assembled on Saturday, meetings for worship were held on that day. The congregation being very large on Lord's-day, arrangements were made for having divine service conducted in five different places, and in the German and English languages. A large number of the ministering brethren present participated in the labors of the day, and good attention was given to the Word preached.

After the devotional exercises, on Monday morning, the council-meeting was organized by appointing the following standing committee: John Berkley and John Zug, of Pennsylvania; Daniel P. Sayler, of Maryland; John Kline and John Wine, of Virginia; John Brower, Henry Kurtz, and Joseph Showalter, of Ohio; John Metzger, and Jacob Miller, of Indiana; Sam. Garber and Dan. Sturgis, of Illinois; John Bower, of Kansas; John Ogg, of Minnesota; Abraham Replogle, of Iowa. Daniel P. Sayler and James Quinter were appointed clerks, and John Kline moderator.

The delegates then presented themselves before the general committee, and presented the papers which they brought from the churches, by whom they were sent as delegates. It was ascertained that there were represented at this council-meeting one hundred and thirty-six congregations, by about two hundred and forty delegates. The general committee, having received the papers addressed to the meeting, distributed such as contained queries to twenty sub-committees, who retired and prepared their reports.

On Tuesday morning the brethren assembled in General Council, to receive and consider the reports of the sub-committees. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises. The object of the meeting was then explained. After this the queries were considered, and the following answers given by the meeting:

ARTICLE 1. Is it agreeable to the order of the brethren to hold Sabbath-schools; and, if so, how should they be conducted? Answer: The decision of the Annual Meeting of 1857 is re-adopted.

ART. 2. With regard to prayer-meetings, how should they be conducted? Answer: All our meetings for divine service should be conducted according to the gospel, which requires all things to be done decently and in order.

ART. 3. If a sister is married to a man, who, after living with her awhile, leaves her, and she, not hearing from him for several years, marries again, can she be held as a member? Answer: No; she could not be held as a member.

ART. 4. In installing official members into office in the church, is there to be any difference observed between near relations? Answer: There is no difference to be observed.

ART. 5. In case a complaint is found against a brother because he was sued at court for an honest debt, and then took the stay, and when he is visited he denies the charge, and says that he was not sued; but the brethren, having evidence to the contrary, agree to send two brethren to the county clerk's office, and the clerk shows, by his record, that the brother was sued, and took the stay for nearly six months, and then paid the debt, together with the costs. Now, the question is, which is to be taken as truth, the brother's word, or the record in the clerk's office? And have the brethren a right, or have they not, to send brethren to the world to investigate church matters? Answer: It is not wrong for brethren to have such matters closely investigated, and to obtain all the light possible.

ART. 6. Is it proper for the visiting brethren, at our public meetings, when there are from three to six laboring brethren present, to rise to their feet, and line out a hymn, and exhort, in preference to the laboring brethren, or are they to keep their seats? Answer: The laboring brethren are to conduct the meeting, and it is the duty of the visiting brethren to exhort when liberty is given them.

Art. 7. Is it allowed by the brethren, in Annual Council, for the members of the church to attend singing-schools on Sundays, or at night, or in the week? Answer: While we would caution our members, especially the young, against the abuses of singing-schools, we would not absolutely forbid them, if conducted orderly, and if they do not conflict with the time of preaching.

Art. 8. Is it wrong for brethren to put bells on their meeting-houses? Answer: We do not think it advisable to encourage brethren to have bells on their meeting-houses.

Art. 9. When official members move from one district to another, should they be received with hand and kiss, or is a letter sufficient? Answer: Art. 9, of the minutes of 1846, re-adopted, and here to be re-printed: "Is a brother, that was a speaker or deacon, and has moved into another church, properly reinstalled in his office, if an ordained brother takes the counsel of the church, and announces the same to him, without he being received by the members with hand and kiss? Considered, unanimously, by the elders, that inasmuch as he was properly received into his office by the church in which he was chosen, he would be sufficiently established."

Art. 10. How are we to proceed with members who will neglect to attend council and public meetings, and that for months? Answer: Such members should be admonished, again and again, and their reasons for non-attendance ascertained, and the danger of living in such a manner set before them. (See Heb. x. 25.)

Art. 11. Inasmuch as there are so many secret societies, such as Freemasons, Odd-Fellows, Sons of Temperance, etc., and as the members of Christ's church are not allowed to belong to any of them, would it not be best to ask all applicants for membership whether they belong to any secret order; and if they do, to inform them that they must renounce all such before they are received into the church?

Answer: If there is a suspicion of any applicant for membership having fellowship with such societies, we think it not wrong to ask such a question.

ART. 12. How is it considered for brethren to wear the beard on the upper lip, they being conscientious in doing so? If a brother does not shave any, we would leave it with his conscience; but if he lets it stand on his upper lip only, we consider it wrong.

ART. 13. How is it considered if a church did, some years ago, in presence of two ordained elders, put in avoidance a member, having committed one of those sins mentioned in I. Cor. v. 11, and at a later date the same church did decide a similar case differently, by a strong majority, in opposition to one ordained elder and the housekeeper in the church? Answer: Inasmuch as Brethren Henry Kurtz and Jacob Snyder have taken this matter in hand, we leave it to those brethren to come to a union with the church concerned.

ART. 14. How is it considered when a church nas several ministers of equal standing, and none of them ordained, has the housekeeper, or have the ministers, a right to call to their assistance an ordained brother, without the counsel of the church? Answer: They have not the right to do so without the counsel of the church.

ART. 15. How is it considered, if a minister defends and justifies slavery, even in a public debate? Answer: It is utterly wrong for any brother to do so, according to Matt. VII. 12.

ART. 16. Inasmuch as the Yearly Meeting has allowed of brethren's children taking an active part in school exhibitions, if properly conducted, is it wrong for brethren to go with them, to investigate such exhibitions? Answer: We consider it best to leave the answer to query 10 of last Yearly Meeting, as it is; and in answer to the additional question whether the parents may go to school exhibitions, we would say we consider it best for them not to go, if their

going would be likely to encourage any thing that is of an evil character.

Art. 17. Is it considered right, according to the gospel, for a brother to marry a woman (not a sister) that is divorced from her husband, when it is not known whether that divorced husband is dead, and the ordained elder, who performed the marriage ceremony, contends that all is right? Answer: We consider it wrong for any brother in the ministry to perform such marriage, and also wrong, according to the gospel, for any brother or sister to be married to any such party.

Art. 18. The brethren assembled in council in the Valley of Virginia, being impressed with the importance of having the public more fully enlightened upon the ordinances, have agreed to adopt the plan at our communion meetings, when it is expedient, in the afternoon service, to occupy the time in discussing these subjects before the commencement of the evening exercises. Will the Annual Meeting approve of this plan, insert it on the minutes, and recommend it? Answer: While we strongly recommend the defense of the ordinances, we leave it to the discretion of the churches to decide the time and place of their defense.

Art. 19. Inasmuch as it is the order of the brethren that sisters should wear caps, what should be done with a sister in case of stubbornness? And should there be any allowance made for the unmarried? Answer: We consider it is the duty of all the sisters to have on a plain covering at the time of worship.

Art. 20. What shall be done in such a case as follows: There is a brother and sister living here who claim to have stood in full fellowship with a church called Dunkards, in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. When asked for a certificate, the brother said the church from which they moved did not give certificates, allowing that their conduct should suffice, and this has been quite satisfactory to the members

of this church. Answer: We consider it right, in all cases, when members move from one arm of the church to another, that they shall present to the church wherein they wish to reside, a certificate, to prove their membership in the church from whence they came, or give satisfaction to the church of which they wish to become members.

ART. 21. Would it not be better, instead of asking the consent of each individual member concerning the reception of an applicant, to make the request general, that is, ask the church as a body whether they are willing to receive such applicant, and if they are, let silence give consent; and if not, that member who is not willing to receive such applicant, shall have full privilege to state his or her objections? Answer: This is left optional to each arm of the church.

ART. 22. How is it considered for sisters to wear hoops, and to conform themselves to the new fashions of the world—shall we tolerate it or not? Answer: The answer to the third query of last Yearly Meeting is re-adopted.

ART. 23. Is it agreeable to the gospel and the rule of the brethren for a bishop to put the office of elder or second degree of the ministry upon a brother, when it appears the majority of the members present are opposed, and so are also two elders who are present? And when it is proposed to take the voice or vote of the church, that is also refused, but he puts the office upon him when he has got his hat on and when he is quarreling with another brother, and when nearly all the members have left, all but eight or ten? And is such a brother legally installed into office? Answer: We consider such a brother not legally installed. And we consider, according to the gospel, that the bishop who did so, should make satisfaction to the church.

ART. 24. How is it considered when a brother commits an offense against the church, and the church takes his case into consideration? He acknowledges the offense, and is sorry for it, and asks forgiveness; has the church a right

to advise him not to commune? Answer: If the church forgives him, and receives him into full fellowship, it has no right to forbid him to commune.

ART. 25. Is it right, according to the gospel, for a brother to buy land that is sold by the county for taxes? Answer: We consider that it is wrong for brethren to do so, when done for speculation.

ART. 26. What is to be done with a brother that buys whiskey by the barrel, and sells it to such as he thinks use it temperately, and when admonished once and again not to sell, he says he will be more careful to sell to none but those who use it temperately? Answer: Any brother dealing in intoxicating liquors, if he continues to do so after being admonished, can not be fellowshiped as a brother.

ART. 27. A person was baptized, and thus became a member of the church; afterward thought he was not in the right state of mind when he had been baptized, and felt that if he would die in this state he would be lost, and then made application to be re-baptized. The brethren in the congregation tried to reconcile him, and could not, and also sent strange and elder brethren to talk with him, who also failed to satisfy him. After repeated and continued application for re-baptism, a brother, without the counsel of the church, baptized him over again, when he became reconciled. Now, did the brother who re-baptized the person do his duty? Answer: We think he did not do his duty, but did wrong.

ART. 28. Can the church hold in fellowship persons living as husband and wife, while the husband's former wife is living, from whom he was divorced, but not for the cause of fornication? Answer: We consider, according to Matt. XIX. 9, that the church can not hold such in fellowship.

ART. 29. Is it right for a son to put his father on the county to be kept, both being members of the church? And if not right, where does the father belong? in the district where he is on the county, or in that from which

he was taken? Answer: We consider it wrong for a son or brother to do so. And the father, under the circumstances stated, would, of course, belong to the district from which he was taken.

Art. 30. What shall we do with brethren of whom the world complains to the church for neglecting to pay their debts, and for causing disappointments to their creditors? Answer: If the brethren can and will not pay their debts, they should be dealt with according to the gospel, as offending members.

Art. 31. Will the brethren, at Annual Meeting, consider it right to establish Sunday-schools? and if they do consider it right, will they also consider it right for members of the church, and their children, to attend Sunday-school celebrations? Answer: We consider it right to have Sunday-schools, if conducted by brethren, but not to have celebrations.

Art. 32. Where ministering brethren have difficulties in the church, and when they are not in full fellowship with the church, in breaking bread, etc., may they still continue to preach and appoint meetings? Answer: We consider that such brethren should be reconciled to the church before they make appointments to preach.

Art. 33. Would it not be advisable, when an election is to be held for both a speaker and a deacon, at the same time, to hold the election for the speaker first, and make the result known, and then hold the election for the deacon or deacons, as the case may be? Answer: We consider it would be advisable to do so.

Art. 34. Can this Annual Meeting allow brethren, and especially the bishops and ministering brethren, to suffer their children, while under their control, to follow all the foolish fashions, such as wearing of hoops, and unnecessary ornaments of the body? Answer: We consider that such things should not be tolerated by the brethren while they can reasonably be prevented.

ART. 35. Is the practice of one ministering brother doing all the vocal praying in the assemblies of Christians, and ending his prayer with the Lord's prayer, more like the apostolic advice and practice than that of our brethren formerly, when two exercised in vocal prayer? Answer: We consider it is not, when there are several brethren present.

ART. 36. Is the practice good and sustained in the gospel for the church enjoining on the believing wives of teachers the duty of aiding, by their humble example and chaste conversation, their husbands in the solemn duty laid upon them? Answer: We consider such a practice in perfect harmony with the spirit of the gospel.

ART. 37. Why are not the sisters, who become wives of ministers after they are appointed to the ministry, called upon in the church to promise the same duties as the sisters who are wives at the time their husbands are appointed to the office? Answer: We consider they should be, according to the practice of the church touching those who are wives of brethren when the latter are appointed to office.

ART. 38. If the servants of the church, receiving the office of teaching, and after a while become more worldly in appearance and manner, whose duty is it to admonish them? Is it the duty of any member, or only the duty of the minister? Answer: We consider it to be the duty of any member to admonish such in the spirit of meekness and love.

ART. 39. How is it considered when visiting brethren will, in meeting, get upon their feet and speak when there are elected speakers present, and sometimes speak thirty minutes or upward, and that without liberty from the speakers? If that is not in order for visiting brethren, what is the order? Is it to stand upon their feet when they have any thing to say, or to keep their seats? Answer: We consider it out of order for visiting brethren to

do so, without liberty being given by ministering brethren, if such are present.

ART. 40. Has a church a right to exclude a member before informing him of the charge they have against him; and if not, what course should a member pursue that has been disowned that way? Answer: The church has no right to do so without duly notifying him, and if they do so, he is entitled to a re-hearing, with the assistance of elders from other churches.

ART. 41. What will the Annual Council advise in the following cases, viz.: A number of brethren in district A become prejudiced against the body of the church and will not attend council and other meetings, after being cited frequently to do so. But they will attend meetings and councils in district B, or the adjoining district, and they also will contribute means and money for the benefit of the said district B, to the entire neglect of their own district? Also, what will Annual Council say of the brethren in district B who encourage those brethren of district A to continue in such a practice? Answer: We consider it wrong for brethren to aid other districts and to neglect their own, and we also consider it wrong for a neighboring church to pursue such a course as district B is said to have done.

ART. 42. How is it considered if a brother has any grievance against another brother, so that he will say he will never break the bread of communion with that brother? But the offended brother does not pursue the course directed in Matt. XVIII., but will go and break bread where the brother who has offended him is not present, and after some years tells this brother that he will never go to the communion with him. Is it right for members to do so, or, have members any right, after they go to a communion, to say any thing afterward about difficulties which had existed before? Answer: We consider a brother has no right,

under such circumstances, to commune until he shall have become reconciled to his brother.

ART. 43. Is it in accordance with the word of God to have supper on the table before washing feet? Answer: We consider that it is.

ART. 44. Is it according to the word of God when a committee of brethren come into a church or district to examine and settle difficulties, to withdraw before they have heard the members in church council, or to withdraw afterward, and then hear each member separately, and then decide without giving the members concerned any knowledge of it or any opportunity to answer complaints made against them? Answer: We consider that it should be left optional with the committee, after having the parties face to face.

ART. 45. Is it in accordance with the gospel for the standing committee of the Yearly Meeting to send a committee into a church, if desired by such that are expelled from the church according to Matt. XVIII., the church having no knowledge of it? Answer: No; but the church which has expelled him should call a committee, if the expelled member requests it.

ART. 46. Is it according to the word of God for such persons as are excommunicated from the church council, the salutation, and the communion, according to Matt. XVIII., to come before the committee, and can their complaints against members be received as evidence? Answer: No.

ART. 47. How is it considered when two members of the church, a visiting brother and his wife, see another visiting brother intoxicated; afterward these two brethren visit the church and commune together, and some two months afterward the first brother named and a private brother saw the same brother again, as they thought, with too much liquor. Still there is no complaint made to the church until some six or seven months after the first transgression, though there have been two or three church meetings held in the time. Then the first brother named lays in com-

plaint. What is now the duty of the church in this and such like cases? Answer: We consider both parties are in fault, and they should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 48. How is it considered if a visiting brother, at a meeting where there are five or six ordained brethren, hears something said which does not suit him, and, after two or three have spoken, arises up and explains the subject according to his own view? Answer: We consider it out of order for visiting brethren to rise and speak when ministering brethren are present, unless asked by them to do so.

ART. 49. Should the hand be withheld or offered, as connected with the admonition, in admonishing a brother? Answer: We consider that the right hand of friendship may be offered, supposing it to be included in the admonition.

ART. 50. Is it advisable to hold an election for a minister or deacon in one part of a congregation (in that in which it is most needed), and none but the members in that part voting, it being too small to form a separate church, providing the whole church consents to hold such an election? Answer: We consider it advisable to do so.

ART. 51. How is it considered if a member that has been excommunicated, makes application to be received again, and there is a council-meeting held, and a complaint is made against him so that he can not be received, and some one goes and tells the excommunicated member all that has been said against him in council? How is such a member to be dealt with? Answer: We consider it very wrong to report any thing done in council to such persons, except the charges made against them.

ART. 52. Would it be against the order of the gospel, or of the brethren, for a church, if the members agree to do so, to hold a love-feast, without tendering an invitation to any of the members of the adjoining churches but the ministering brethren? Answer: We consider if a church, for

want of room, or for other good reasons, thinks it proper to hold a love-feast without giving a general invitation, it may be permitted to do so.

Art. 53. Is it in accordance with the gospel to pronounce a benediction over the people at the close of a funeral service at the grave? And, if so, what should be the form? Answer: We have no authority in the gospel for doing so, and no such custom among the brethren to sanction it.

Art 54. Who are the elders spoken of by James, that are to be sent to anoint the sick in the name of the Lord? Answer: The ordained elders, if they can be obtained; if not, the next in office.

Art. 55. Which is the most advisable in holding council-meetings, to ask each individual member for his consent, or to take silence for consent? Answer: In all weighty matters it is best for each member to answer

Art. 56. Is the testimony of one witness sufficient authority to expel a member, under any circumstance, when the accused denies and objects to the testimony? Answer: One witness is not sufficient, in general, but we will not say that under no circumstances one is not sufficient.

Art. 57. Can a member, who is accused of some fault, give testimony before the church? Answer: While a person is a member of the church his testimony can not be altogether set at naught by the church.

Art. 58. Inasmuch as the brethren in Annual Council of 1856 have recommended the churches to hold district or council-meetings, and with this we have complied; now, we wish to know whether we should take minutes of our proceedings? Answer: We consider that no query of importance, acted on by the sub-district meeting, should be confirmed until presented to the Annual Meeting for its sanction.

Art. 59. If a man and his wife leave one church and go into another, with a recommendation from the former,

which is received by the latter; after awhile the sister leaves her husband, the brother, and returns to the church which she first left, charging her husband with crimes committed before the recommendation was given. Not bringing a recommendation from the church from which she last came, the former receives her or retains her as a member, and acts on the case of her husband and expels him. Did this church do right? Answer: We consider that no church should receive a member from another without a certificate, or to expel a member without a hearing.

ART. 60. How shall we regard the conduct of a brother who travels through different churches, and when he comes into the congregation he falls down on his knees and makes a private prayer, mortifying some of the members? Had he not better make his private prayers where no human eye can see him? Answer: We think it is out of order to do so, and the brother should do so no more.

ART. 61. Is it consistent with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for wealthy brethren to make it a rule or custom, when they lend money to poor brethren or others, to make those who borrow the money pay the tax on the money, when they receive interest on the money? If not consistent with the gospel, what is to be done with such a brother? Answer: We think it is not consistent with the gospel to take more than lawful interest. (See Luke III. 13.)We think such a brother should be admonished by the church, and if he will not hear the church, he should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 62. Has a brother the right to put the law in force against his brother, to collect money, in any shape or form whatever, without giving him notice before? Answer: In no case whatever.

ART. 63. Will the brethren, in Annual Council, consider it right for ministering brethren to receive members into the church without requesting them to lay off the fashions of the world in regard to apparel, and to conform to the

order of the brethren? Answer: We consider it would not be right to do so. (See Rom. XII. 2.)

ART. 64. How is it considered if members owe a just debt, and suffer themselves to be sued? Has the church a right to bring such members before the church, and to investigate the case, to see whether such members have done their duty? Answer: We consider it has.

ART. 65. Would it not be more in accordance with the gospel, and the example of Christ, to omit returning thanks between the supper and the communion? Answer: We think it best to return thanks, according to I. Thess. v. 18.

ART. 66. We wish to have the first query in the minutes of the last Yearly Meeting reconsidered, and a more definite answer given. Answer: In reconsidering the query alluded to, we conclude that we can not give a more definite answer than was given in 1858, query 40, and in 1861, query 1.

ART. 67. When a person, having received baptism in the same way that we perform it, but by a minister of a different denomination, wishes to be united to the brethren, must such a person be re-baptized in order to be received into our church? Answer: We refer to the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1848, Art. 5.

ART. 68. How shall we proceed in case a sick member requests the communion? Will any time do? And must feet-washing and the supper accompany the communion? Answer: We consider it best to administer it in the evening, according to the example of Christ. John XIII.

ART. 69. How is it considered when ministering brethren, after preaching, go into the congregation and invite persons to join the church? Answer: We consider it best to do as was done in Acts II.

ART. 70. Requests for committees: 1. A committee for Rush Creek Church, Hocking County, Ohio. The following brethren form the committee: John P. Ebersole, Elias Dicky, and H. Davy. 2. A committee to visit the Elk Lick

Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. John Kline and John Wine were appointed on this committee, with authority to add one to the number.

ART. 71. Resolved, by this council-meeting, that no query shall be presented to the Annual Conference without being signed by the elders, in the name of the church in which it originates.

ART. 72. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from northern Illinois, for the Annual Meeting of 1864, or as soon as it can be had. 2. A renewal of the request of the Nettle Creek Church, Wayne County, Indiana, for 1864. 3. The request of the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting of 1863, was renewed, and granted. Our next Annual Meeting will, therefore, the Lord willing, be held with the brethren in Blair County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1863.

Brethren from the east and southeast will go to Huntingdon, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad; there take the Huntingdon and Broadtop Railroad to Cove Station, which is four miles and a half from the place of meeting. Those from the west will stop at Altoona, and take the branch to Hollidaysburg, which is about fourteen miles from the place of meeting; or, if they prefer to do so, they can go to Huntingdon, and then take the route the brethren from the east are directed to take. Correspondence can be held with Daniel M. Holsinger and George Brumbaugh, Martinsburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania.

P. S.—Inasmuch as the old clerk, Henry Kurtz, declined the clerk's office, offered him by the standing committee, the giving out of certificates and return tickets on the railroads was left to him, with authority to call in the assistance of other brethren, especially since illness made him almost totally unfit for business.

Signed in behalf of the meeting and general committee.

D. P. SAYLER, } Clerks.
J. QUINTER. }

JOHN KLINE, Moderator.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1863.

The religious exercises began Saturday morning, and were continued on the Lord's-day in different places, and likewise every evening while the meeting lasted. On Monday morning the meeting was organized for business, by the nomination of a standing committee, before which appeared the delegates of the several churches, handing in their letters and queries. The business then was distributed among fourteen committees for investigation, and on Tuesday morning the public discussion commenced of those matters laid before the meeting. They were as follows:

ARTICLE 1. How are we to deal with our brethren who have enlisted and gone to the army as soldiers or teamsters, or those who have been drafted, and are gone to the army? We think it not expedient to consider (or discuss) these questions at this time. Still it is believed, and was expressed, the gospel gave sufficient instruction.

ART. 2. How is it considered if a brother goes to law with an outsider, without the counsel of the church, and causes quite a conspicuous lawsuit; how are we to deal with such an one according to the gospel? Are we to visit him, according to Matt. XVIII., or bring the case before the church at once? Bring it before the church at once.

ART. 3. How are we to deal with sisters who are wearing hoops? They should be admonished once and again; and if they will not heed the admonitions, they should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII. (See Minutes of 1861, Art. 3.)

ART. 4. Is it contrary to the gospel to have lamb's meat at the Lord's Supper? We think not; but since the gospel does not give a precept or example of what the supper did or shall consist, the members should try to be in union, love, and forbearance in this matter. (See Minutes of 1853, Art. 21, and 1855, Art. 20.)

ART. 5. What should be done with a brother that would preach that slavery was right according to the Scriptures, and cause discord among the brethren? Inasmuch as the brethren always believed, and believe yet, that slavery is a great evil, and contrary to the doctrine of Christ, we consider it utterly wrong for a brother to justify slavery, either in public or in private, and that he should be admonished, and if obstinate, shall be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 6. Would it not be expedient and consistent that the brethren forming the standing committee of the Annual Meeting of the brethren should open and examine all questions (sent in by the several churches, and assort them), and thereby save an amount of unnecessary labor and time spent, as there are frequently two, three, and even more, queries of the same import and meaning sent in, and acted upon (separately reported hitherto by different committees) at the same conference, which, we think, could be avoided in a great measure? Considered, it is expedient.

ART. 7. A woman leaves her husband because he committed adultery, and he then leaves the neighborhood. About three years after the woman marries again, having obtained a divorce from her former husband, and after the expiration of another three years, both the woman and the husband she now has, apply to the church to become members, the woman not having heard from her discarded husband all that time; can she be received? We think they can not be received without the church being satisfied that the first husband be dead. I. Cor. VII. 39.

ART. 8. How is it considered if brethren appoint meetings, and invite speakers from other congregations, who conform themselves too much to the fashions of the world by wearing apparel, and those appointments and invitations are made without the consent of the church or bishop, and are offensive to some members? We think members should not do so without the consent of the elder or the church.

Art. 9. If one brother should demand and receive more interest from another brother than the law allows, and the latter acquiesces for years, but finally becomes dissatisfied, must he make the complaint to the church, or commence in the ordinary way, by going first privately to the offending brother, etc.? Answer: The dissatisfied brother should proceed according to Matt. xviii., and the offending brother should refund the unlawful interest as far as the church in which both reside may judge equitable.

Art. 10. If one brother clandestinely slanders another, then gets a letter of recommendation and removes from the church before the slandered brother is aware of the offense against him, how is the offended brother to proceed? The offended brother should request the church where he lives to assist him in getting a reconciliation.

Art. 11. Is it in accordance with the direction of the apostle (I. Tim. ii. 1, etc.,) to have any exhortation before prayer, on opening meeting? We do not consider Paul's exhortation confined to opening the meeting, and therefore believe a word of exhortation to prayer very proper in opening the meeting, provided the exhortation is short, and confined principally to prayer

Art. 12. Inasmuch as it is the decision of the council of the Yearly Meeting that members who commit the sin of fornication should be expelled from the church, according to I. Cor. v., how is it considered when a church retains members who have committed that sin, upon a confession of being sorry for it? Answer: Not consistent with the word of God (I. Cor. v.), nor with the ancient order of the church.

Art. 13. When a member of the church is known to be in a fault, the church sends the visiting brethren to the offending members, to invite them to the council-meeting; the visiting brethren, on their way, are apprised of another member having committed a fault; have they a right to invite this member, also, to the council-meeting, or must they

first go back to the church to get authority for this second case? They have a right to visit and invite the member to council-meeting.

Art. 14. How is it considered concerning a brother in the following case: A certain man, not a member of our church, forges a note to the amount of three hundred and seventy-five dollars against said brother, and a summons is issued and served by the sheriff for this (false) debt against him. In consequence of this, the brother testifies against the forger before a court of justice, who is convicted, and sentenced to the state prison for a term of years? Considered, that the brother should have first taken counsel of the church.

Art. 15. Is it in accordance with the gospel to have stands or pulpits erected in our meeting-houses? We have no direct gospel upon this subject, but we advise the brethren not to put pulpits or stands in their houses of worship, when by so doing confusion and disunion may be produced.

Art. 16. Has an ordained elder, according to the brethren's order, the right to come into an adjoining district, and bring a committee along with him, and there reconsider matters without the counsel of the church, over which, also, an ordained elder presides? Considered, that no ordained elder has a right to do so [in ordinary cases.]

Art. 17. What plan will the Yearly Meeting recommend or adopt, that all the brethren must bear an equal share in paying the fines government will impose upon those brethren who may be drafted into the military service? In this case it is recommended by this Yearly Meeting that each member should be willing to contribute according to the true avails of their property, according to Gal. vi. 2.

Art. 18. Inasmuch as some brethren manifest a desire to prohibit brethren from voting at our common (political) elections, do not the brethren in Yearly Council see it to be best to make no change differing from the counsel and practice of our ancient brethren in these days of trouble?

In the present crisis we recommend that brethren abstain as much as possible from attending elections, according to John xviii. 36; II. Cor. vi. 14–17.

Art. 19. Is it consistent with the gospel and the order of the brethren for a brother who lays a complaint of bad conduct of another member before the church, to state the case himself, in the presence of the member complained of and the church, or shall the elders of the church state it for him, and thus conceal him? Let the manner of proceeding in such cases be left to the discretion of the church.

Art. 20. Can an arm of the church (or a local church) be congregational or act independent from all the churches of our fraternity, and still be in full union with the church? It can not, according to the gospel and the order of the brethren. (See Romans xii. 4, 5; I. Cor. i. 10; Eph. iv. 3, 4, etc.)

Art. 21. Whereas, there has obtained, of late years, some difference in observing the Lord's Supper among different churches, some setting the supper on the table before feet-washing, while some do not till after (the latter being the old universal practice); whereas the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of last year, in Article 43, have grieved some of our brethren: and, whereas, a conciliatory course should always be pursued when brethren have a preference, as it regards the mode or way of observing an ordinance, so that it is properly observed, and no part of divine truth sacrificed, we therefore recall the decision of the Annual Meeting above referred to, and let the subject of the time of putting the supper on the table stand precisely where it stood previous to the decision of 1862, with the understanding that the churches may and should continue, without making any change either way, until we have further light on the subject, to bring about a more full union.

Art. 22. Which is according to the gospel, to transact church business at our common council-meeting? Shall they be public before the world, or in the presence of our

members only? Considered, to be according to the gospel that members only should compose the council-meeting. (See Matt. x, which whole chapter is directed to disciples alone; Matt. xvii. 17, where it says of the disciples coming to Jesus apart; and in Mark vi. 31, Jesus says himself to his disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart," etc., etc., etc.)

Art. 23. Would it not be better for the church if this Yearly Meeting would adopt the district meetings, so that the different states may form their districts as they may see proper? Considered, to leave this matter as it stands on the minutes of 1856, Article 23.

Art. 24. Would it not be for the better to have the minutes of the Annual Meeting in the "Visitor" once a year, provided the editors were willing? Considered not advisable to have the minutes printed in the "Visitor."

Art. 25. Is it according to Scripture for (any or) each brother of the church to have the privilege to appoint meetings, attend the same, and preach? We think it is not in accordance with the gospel, nor promotive of love and union, but rather a fruitful source of contention, strife, and disunion; therefore, no brother should assume such authority, neither should any brother encourage such in their proceedings; and if a brother will preach contrary to the will of the church he can not do it in the name of the church. Approved by this Yearly Meeting.

Art. 26. If brethren, not elected, being endowed with the gift of prophecy, and moved by the Holy Ghost to occupy, with their talents, as their Lord commands, and being called on by the people to preach, have the bishops of the church any authority from the gospel to forbid it, merely because they are not elected, provided he or they preach Jesus to edification, exhortation, and comfort, and their appointments do not conflict with any regular meetings of the church? As the apostle directs the spirit of the prophets to be subject to the prophets (I. Cor. xiv. 35), and as God is said to be the author of peace, and not of confusion

(verse 33), and as the apostle asks the question, "How shall they preach except they be sent?" (Romans x. 15), and as Christ selected, from the number of his disciples, those that he designed to preach the gospel, it appears by the gospel not only proper but necessary that there should be a regular induction of those who are to officiate as ministers into the office of the ministry, and therefore we can not sanction the idea entertained by some, that any brother may go out and appoint meetings for preaching.

Art. 27. Would it not be well to have the ninth query of 1861 reconsidered? Considered, that we can not better it.

Art. 28. With regard to the question whether a brother minister was rightly dealt with who has taken the liberty to do servile work on the Lord's-day repeatedly, and notwithstanding he has been admonished again and again, continues to defend and pursue his course to the offense of many in and out of the church, it appears that the church, with a chosen committee of elders, has decided that the brother has either to quit this practice, or the exercise of his ministry. The standing committee unanimously confirms this decision.

Art. 29. Requests for committees. 1. A committee for Tulpehaccon Church, Pennsylvania; granted, and Henry Kurtz, Peter Long, John G. Glock, and Isaac Myer, appointed. 2. A committee for Lower Shenandoah Church, Virginia; granted, and Henry Kurtz, Henry Davy, Jacob Wine, John Kline, Daniel P. Sayler, and Daniel Thomas, nominated. Another request for a committee was not granted, because it did not come from the church, which it ought to do in all cases.

Art. 30. Requests for the Yearly Meeting. 1. From the Nettle Creek Church, Indiana; twice repeated before. 2. From Northern Illinois; repeated the second time. 3. From Antietam Church, Pennsylvania, for the meeting in 1865.

The request of our brethren in Wayne County, Indiana,

was granted—to have the Yearly Meeting in 1864. Hagerstown, of said county, on the Cincinnati & Chicago Air-Line Railroad, will be the station to stop at; the place of meeting is one mile from this station. Bro. David Hardman and David Bowman (Hagerstown post-office), will give all further information to those who may address them.

ART. 31. About railroad privileges for next year. Bro. David Hardman and other corresponding members of the above church, where the next Yearly Meeting will take place, will make proper arrangements for the privilege of railroads, usually granted, to make timely applications at the different companies in their immediate vicinity. Bro. D. P. Sayler was appointed to attend to the obtaining of the favor from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Bro. C. Custer to attend to the same on the Pennsylvania Central; John Metzger for other roads in the west, and Henry Kurtz for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway.

ART. 32. Resolved, that this meeting return its thanks to those railroad companies that have granted the favor of excursion tickets, for their kindness.

From our records it appears that this year one hundred and fifty-three churches were represented by thirty-seven ordained elders, sixty-five ministers in the second, and seventeen in the third degree, twenty-nine deacons, and ten private members, and the whole meeting passed off in a pleasant, and, we trust in God, profitable manner, and was closed Wednesday afternoon with prayer, the crowd dispersing fast.

Signed by the standing committee: John Wine, of Virginia; D. P. Sayler, of Maryland; Samuel Lehman and Christopher Long, of Illinois; Andrew Spanogle, Isaac Meyer, and John Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; Henry D. Davy and Daniel Miller, of Ohio; John Metzger and F. P. Loehr, of Indiana; David Brower, of Iowa.

HENRY KURTZ, }
JAMES QUINTER, } Clerks.

JOHN KLINE, Moderator.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1864.

By the kind permission of our heavenly Father a very large number of brethren were permitted to meet, according to previous arrangements. The religious services commenced on Saturday, and were continued until Monday noon. The multitude present was very large. On Lord's-day there was preaching at six places. There seemed to be a considerable desire manifested to hear preaching, and good attention was manifested to the word preached.

On Monday morning the meeting was organized for business by appointing a standing committee and the necessary officers. The delegates then reported themselves; whereupon it was ascertained that there were represented in this meeting one hundred and fifty churches. These churches were represented by two hundred and thirty delegates; these delegates were divided as follows: Ordained elders, seventy-two; elders, ninety-two; teachers, twenty-two; deacons, twenty-five; private members, eighteen The business was then distributed among twelve sub-committees. These commenced reporting on Tuesday morning, and the business to be transacted was thus brought before the General Council, and we hope, in the fear of God, acted upon. The following queries were presented to the meeting and the annexed answers given:

Article 1. In no less than four papers the question is presented, whether it is right and proper for a brother to go to, or take part in, political elections, it being specially stated that it had caused hard feelings and disunion? Answer: We have been led to think that at all times it would be best and most consistent with our profession, and specially most proper and safe in the present critical state of things, to have nothing at all to do with politics, and entirely to abstain from voting. (See II. Cor. vi. 14–17, also Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1863, Article 18.)

Art. 2. If a sister has a husband that is not a member

in the church, and it is known that he is an adulterer, is it consistent with the gospel for her to live with him and be his wife? And if it is not consistent for her to do so, has she a right to get a bill of divorcement according to law? Answer: As to the first part of the query, we think it should be left to her choice whether to live with him or not. And as to the second, we say, with Paul (I. Cor. VII. 10, 11), "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried."

ART. 3. Is it right, according to the tenor of the gospel, for brethren to erect lightning rods upon their buildings, and to have their property and lives insured? Answer: As to lightning rods, we fully agree with the answer given by the Yearly Meeting of 1851, Article 7: "Considered, that we would not advise brethren to do so, nor would we say to those who have them, to take them down, but advise all our dear brethren to bear with each other in such matters, and to try to put their chief trust in God." We likewise agree with the Annual Meeting of 1847, concerning the insurance of property: "Considered, that we can not advise brethren to do so, neither could we forbid its being done in a mutual way." But as to getting their lives insured, we advise the brethren to make use of no such privilege.

ART. 4. Inasmuch as there are many members of our churches traveling from one state to another, and staying from home from four to eight months, would it not be better for members, under such circumstances, to obtain a certificate of membership from the church in which they live? Answer: We think it would be better to do so.

ART. 5. Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to donate money toward building meeting-houses of other denominations? Answer: Finding no gospel upon the subject alluded to in the query, we leave it to every one's conscience to direct in the case.

ART. 6. Have the brethren a gospel-right to serve as ju-

rors when the authorities call for them? Answer: No; as we are admonished by the apostle (II. Cor. VI. 14–18.)

ART. 7. When the apostles prohibit the wearing of gold and pearls (I. Tim. II. 9; I. Peter III. 3), are gold watches to be included? Answer: As the carrying of gold watches may, and is likely to, lead to pride, we think it advisable not to wear them.

ART. 8. How is it considered by the brethren in yearly council assembled, in relation to members who do not conform to the order of the brethren in the wearing of apparel, and in the wearing of their hair, but follow the fashions of the world? Answer: We think that the ministering brethren should heartily admonish and urge the members to conform to the order of the brethren, and set them a good example; and if those who are admonished again and again, and that by the church too, as well as by the ministers, will not hear, the word of God directs us what to do with them. (Matt. XVIII.)

ART. 9. How does the Annual Meeting decide upon the following case: A brother is totally blind, and his occupation for a living is dealing in groceries and in nearly all kinds of intoxicating liquors. He was engaged in that business before belonging to the church, and now claims that the church should not prohibit him from selling liquor, since he could not otherwise make a living. Answer: We consider that it is entirely wrong for any brother, whether blind or not, to sell intoxicating liquors.

ART. 10. Is it considered right, according to the gospel, for a minister to wear a soldier's overcoat when in the pulpit, or at other times; and, if it is not, how is such a brother to be dealt with, if he should continue to wear it after being admonished? Answer: It is considered not advisable for any brother, whether a minister or private member, to wear any military clothing, and if he is admonished, and still persists in being disobedient, he should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 11. As the Annual Meeting of 1862 has justly condemned the selling of intoxicating liquors, what does the Annual Meeting say of the practice of such brethren as engage in producing corn and other grain, and sell it to distillers? Answer: As the Scripture explicitly commands us to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (I. Thess. v. 22), we consider it best to advise brethren not to sell any grain to distillers.

ART. 12. Inasmuch as there is still a difference of opinion relative to the applicant for baptism declaring his agreement with the church in regard to the principles of non-resistance, non-swearing, and non-conformity to the world, whether this should be done in the presence of the whole congregation, or of the church only, we wish a decisive answer, and not only a reference to the minutes of 1848 and 1858, as we have referred to these, but still get into difficulty. Answer: We think it should be done in the presence of the church only.

ART. 13. As the Annual Meeting has recommended the holding of district meetings, we wish to know from it whether it would be advisable to make a record of the proceedings of such district meetings? Answer: We would advise to keep no record of proceedings but what is to be submitted to the Annual Meeting.

ART 14. Does the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1862, Article 58, prohibit us from taking the minutes of the proceedings of our district meetings, for our own benefit? Answer: Yes, we consider that it does.

ART. 15. How are we to hold a brother that keeps Saturday for the Sabbath, works on Sunday, and strongly contends that he is right? Answer: Inasmuch as the old brethren have always observed the first day of the week as a day of rest and public worship, we think such a brother should be heartily admonished to conform to the order of the brethren and the gospel, and if he does not do so, he should be dealt with according to the gospel.

ART. 16. Is it right, and according to the gospel, for a brother to invest money in government bonds? Answer: We consider it not wrong to do so.

ART. 17. Is it wrong to baptize or immerse sick persons in a house? Answer: We consider it is not advisable to do so whenever it is possible to avoid it.

ART. 18. In case a brother commits a trespass openly before the world, should not such one make his acknowledgments openly before the world also? Answer: No, he should not.

ART. 19. Inasmuch as all that our Annual Meeting has hitherto done to suppress the excessive or intemperate use of tobacco, in smoking and chewing, has virtually proved a failure, could not this meeting adopt some method by which the excessive use of this growing evil could be suppressed in our brotherhood? Answer: As the use of tobacco is offensive to some brethren and sisters, and the excessive use of it an evil, we advise and counsel brethren not to use it in time of worship, so as to be either filthy or offensive to others, and we think our ministering brethren should admonish their members not to indulge in the excessive use of it in any way, because it is wrong to do so.

ART. 20. Is it in harmony with gospel principles, and with the practice of the church, for the housekeepers of one church district to reject the counsel or aid of members from neighboring districts, that have come to council or church meeting, as it is customary for brethren to do, and even tell them that they were not needed, so as to sway their council? And if it be not proper, what shall be done with brethren pursuing such a course? Answer: We consider it improper for the members of one congregation to go, without being invited by another church, and take part in their deliberations, and it is proper to inform them that their aid can be dispensed with, if it is not wanted.

ART. 21. What is to be done with a person, who, after being dismissed from the church, rails against the brethren,

and speaks evil of them? Answer: We think he should be dealt with according to I. Cor. v. 11: "Not to keep company with such a one; no, not to eat."

ART. 21. Is it right for a brother to go to an election, and there elect, or help to elect, a brother (who takes no part in elections) to fill an office in which he must either serve or pay his fine? Answer: We consider it utterly wrong for brethren to do so.

ART. 23. Does this Annual Meeting consider civil government of divine authority, or a mere association for mutual well being? Answer: We consider that it is of divine authority, from the testimony of the Apostle Paul. (See Rom. XIII. 1–8.)

ART. 24. Does the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ allow brethren to act as executors or administrators, especially brethren in office or in the ministry? Answer: We think the gospel does not forbid brethren to act as executors or administrators.

ART. 25. Is it in accordance with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for the church to receive and take candidates in with (or by) hand and kiss previous to the reading of Matt. XVIII., and then baptize them upon their public confession? Answer: We think it is neither in accordance with the gospel nor the order of the brethren to do so.

ART. 26. Is it inconsistent with the gospel for the bread and wine to be on the table with the supper, if a mojority of any branch of the church thinks it well to have it so? We think, in case of any change being desired in the established order in any branch of the church, especially with regard to the communion, it would always be best and safest, for the preservation of love and union, to take no steps in any change of this kind until the whole church is united, and neighboring churches or the district meeting consulted.

ART. 27. Is it right for members of our church to meet members of other denominations, with hand and kiss, the

same as we meet our own members? Answer: We think it not right to salute them as members.

Art. 28. Is it according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, to receive and baptize into the church such as are in the military service, bearing arms in this war, or to go into the camps and baptize such, and let them remain in the service, or should they not first get a full discharge before they can be received into the church by baptism? Answer: We can not encourage such proceedings; but in case of extreme sickness, and when there is a promise to shed no more blood, we will let the churches applied to decide what shall be done; but let the principles of the church be acceded to by all candidates.

Art. 29. A brother being legally elected to the ministry a year ago, and refuses to be installed, and seldom attends church; what shall be done in such a case? Answer: The brother should be admonished, and encouraged to attend meetings and accept of his office, and the brethren should try and bear with him as long as the wants of the church will permit; but if he will not serve, and the church needs laborers, then it should elect others.

Art. 30. A minister in the first degree moves into another district, and while absent from the first, is advanced to the second degree in the district into which he moved. During this time another brother was chosen to the ministry in the first district, and advanced to the second degree, his election having taken place after the first-named speaker's advancement. Now, the first-named speaker moves back into the first district, after an absence of ten years, with a certificate certifying his good standing in the church in which he had been living. Now, according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, which of the two is next to the elder or bishop? or does the first brother forfeit his standing by moving away from the flock? Answer: The brother longest in the ministry, if a worthy minister, is next to the elder.

ART. 31. Since the Yearly Meeting favors district meetings for the purpose of adjusting local difficulties, and to lessen the labor of the Yearly Meeting, would it not be advisable to form regular districts in each state, and close them with lines, that individual churches may know to what district they belong? And, if so, should not this Yearly Meeting appoint brethren in each state to form such districts in their respective states, and close them by making such lines? Answer: Yes; but we will leave the districting of the states to the churches in the respective states.

ART. 32. What authority have we in the New Testament for three orders or grades in the ministry? And if there be not three grades, how many are set forth in the word of Christ and the apostles? Answer: We defer this question to the next Annual Meeting, recommending the brethren to examine the scripture upon the subject

ART. 33. Will this Annual Meeting adopt some form or order for forwarding ministers from one degree to another, as it has been differently performed heretofore? Answer: The order of the brethren, as already given by the Annual Meeting, is to forward brethren by the hand and kiss.

ART. 34. How is it considered by the Annual Meeting, if a brother or sister present a certificate of membership where they wish to reside, and after awhile demand it again, and receive it; do they thereby withdraw their membership from said district of the church? Answer: We think they can not withdraw their membership legally by so doing, and that certificates should not be given up under such circumstances.

ART. 35. As our national troubles, consequent upon the rebellion now existing in our country, have caused considerable difficulty in our church, and have tried our non-resistant principles, and have caused several questions concerning the paying of bounty-money, voting, etc., to come before this council-meeting, what counsel will this Annual Meeting give upon these subjects? Answer: We exhort

the brethren to steadfastness in the faith, and believe that the times in which our lots are cast strongly demand of us a strict adherence to all our principles, and especially to our non-resistant principle, a principle dear to every subject of the Prince of Peace, and a prominent doctrine of our fraternity, and to endure whatever sufferings and to make whatever sacrifice the maintaining of the principle may require, and not to encourage in any way the practice of war. And we think it more in accordance with our principles, that instead of paying bounty-money, and especially in taking an active part in raising bounty-money, to await the demands of the government, whether general, state, or local, and pay the fines and taxes required of us, as the gospel permits, and, indeed, requires. Matt. xxii. 21; Rom. xiii. 7. And lest the position we have taken upon political matters in general, and war matters in particular, should seem to make us, as a body, appear to be indifferent to our government, or in opposition thereto, in its efforts to suppress the rebellion, we hereby declare that it has our sympathies and our prayers, and that it shall have our aid in any way which does not conflict with the principles of the gospel of Christ. But since, in our Christian profession, we regard these gospel principles as superior or paramount to all others, consistency requires that we so regard them in our practices.

Art. 36. It having been agreed upon, at a former time, that our Yearly Meetings should be held alternately in the east and west, the Allegheny Mountains being considered the dividing line, it is requested that this meeting change that line to the Ohio River. This request was granted.

Art. 37. Would it not be good to make some change in holding our Yearly Meetings, for the purpose of preventing so great a multitude of people from being present? And would it not, also, be better to have the conference more private, and not to name on the minutes who were chosen on the standing committee, or who was clerk, etc.?

Answer: We think it not expedient to make any change at this time.

Art. 38. Requests for committees: 1. A request from the church of Appanoose, Iowa, for a committee to visit it to settle difficulties existing therein. The request was granted, and the following brethren appointed: David Brower, Jacob Brower, John Murray, and Jacob Waters. 2. A request from the Paint Creek Church, Ross County, Ohio, for a committee. Referred to the elders present April 28th last, and to the church at Bear Creek, to do as they may see fit.

Art. 39. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. Request from the Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, for the meeting in 1865, which was granted. 2. A request from northern Illinois, for the meeting in 1866. This request was accompanied by a request to have the meeting two weeks later than the ordinary time of holding it, because of the latitude of that locality, and it was concluded that if the meeting is held in northern Illinois, the request of the brethren there, as regards the time, should be granted, it being understood that the change of time is only for that special occasion. 3. A request from the Pipe Creek Church, Carroll County, Maryland, for the meeting in 1867. The request from the Antietam Church being granted, the Annual Meeting of 1865 will, the Lord willing, be held with that church.

The following information is given for the satisfaction of brethren wishing to attend the meeting: Those going from the west, via Pittsburg, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, will take the Cumberland Valley Railroad at Harrisburg, and stop at Greencastle. Those going by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, will stop at Martinsburg, Virginia, and then take stage to Hagerstown, Maryland. They will then take the Cumberland Valley Railroad to Greencastle. The distance from Greencastle to the meeting, and the names of the brethren with whom corres-

pondence can be held, will be given hereafter in the "Visitor," as soon as ascertained.

Art. 40. Resolved, that this meeting returns its thanks to such railroad companies as have granted the favor of excursion tickets for their kindness.

The meeting closed Wednesday noon, after the proceedings, and all who were present, were commended to God by prayer. Much Christian love was manifested among the brethren, and it is hoped the labors of the meeting will be acceptable and profitable to the church.

Standing committee, etc.: John Kline, John Wine, Virginia; Daniel P. Sayler, Maryland; Leonard Furry, David Gerlach, Pennsylvania; Henry Davy, James Quinter, Ohio; David Miller, John Bowman, Daniel Bowman, Indiana; Christian Long, Sam. Gerber, Illinois; Jacob Brower, Iowa; John Bower, Kansas.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1865.

As usual, a very large number of persons assembled at the place of meeting on Saturday, when the religious services commenced, and they were continued until Monday afternoon. There were represented in the council one hundred and forty churches, by one hundred and eighty-two delegates.

The meeting was organized on Monday morning, after which the delegates from the churches presented themselves and handed in their papers. As the amount of business before the meeting was considerable, it was thought advisable to form sixteen sub-committees. After the devotional exercises on Tuesday morning, these committees commenced reporting, and the General Council, in the fear of God, entered upon its labors. The following questions were before the council and answered as herein stated:

ARTICLE 1. Could not this Annual Meeting make some change in the manner of holding our Annual Meetings, which would be advisable and acceptable to the brotherhood? Answer: This meeting feels the importance of a change, but, not to make any change too hastily, it appoints the following committee to take this matter into consideration to propose the result of their wisdom and labor to the next Annual Meeting, for its acceptance or rejection: D. P. Sayler, Philip Boyle, Benjamin Mumaw, Andrew Derrick, J. H. Umstad, John Wise, H. D. Davy, John Hershey, Jacob Miller, Hiel Hamilton, Christian Long, John Metzger, David Brower, and Frederick Loehr.

ART. 2. Which would be nearest to the gospel, and the order of the church, when a committee is chosen to settle a difficulty, to make known the accusation to the accused and to the church before the committee withdraws, or to withhold it from him and a part of the church till the committee has heard the witnesses and made their decision and report? Answer: The accusation should be made known to the church and the accused, and the accusers and the accused should be face to face, that the latter may have liberty to answer for himself, according to Acts xxv. 16.

ART. 3. The apostle James says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church," etc. Now, inasmuch as the apostle says *elders*, and not *ministers*, in the first and second degree, would it not be more consistent with the gospel to send for ordained elders in all cases? Answer: We consider the decisions of the Annual Meeting of 1850 and 1862 upon this subject satisfactory and correct. (The following is taken from the minutes of those years: Who are the proper persons in the church to administer the ordinance recorded in James v. 14? Considered, the bishops or ordained elders. Article 30, 1850: Is there any second order of persons in the church who may administer the above ordinance in cases of great and pressing necessity, when the proper administrators can not be

had in time for the urgency of the case? Considered, in such case brethren in less office, if at least one of them is authorized to baptize, might serve. Article 31, 1850: Who are the elders spoken of by James, that are to be sent to anoint the sick in the name of the Lord? Answer: The ordained elders, if they can be obtained, if not, the next in office. Article 54, 1862.)

Art. 4. How is it considered when elders in different churches teach that it is not necessary to send for elders to anoint the sick, but that brethren in the first and second degree can do it as well as elders? Answer: We do not consider it consistent with the gospel for elders so to teach.

Art. 5. Have committees, appointed to investigate difficulties in churches other than the church in which they hold their membership, the power to disown members in the absence of the church council, or without consultation with the elders of the church in which the difficulty exists? Answer: We consider that they have no such power.

Art. 6. Has any church a right, according to the order of the brethren, to send a letter to the standing committee of the Yearly Meeting, demanding of them that a certain brother should have no right to assist the brethren in selecting committees that may be called for? Answer: We consider that no church has any right to make such a demand.

Art. 7. Whereas, the brethren at our last Annual Meeting decided that "Civil Government is of divine authority" (minutes of Annual Meeting, Article 23, 1864); and, whereas, all civil governments are, and always have been, sustained by the sword; we therefore wish to know if it is right for brethren to bear arms, when called upon to do so by the authorities, in order to sustain the civil government? Answer: We consider that we have no right to take up arms.

Art. 8. How is it viewed for a brother or for brethren to write against the ancient order and customs of the church, and have their manuscripts or writings printed,

and thus distributed in and out of the church? Answer: We think it is not right to do so.

Art. 9. Whereas, the brethren have heretofore advised against publishing the proceedings of the Annual Meeting in the "Gospel Visitor," will they still disapprove of publishing them in our papers? Answer: We think the minutes of our Annual Meeting had better be kept separate from our public papers.

Art. 10. Since the counsel of the brethren, assembled at our Annual Meetings for the last two years, is, that brethren should have nothing to do with politics, and to entirely abstain from voting, how should we deal with such brethren as will not hear said counsel? Answer: We advise that such brethren be admonished in love, again and again, to be subject to the counsel of the Annual Meeting.

Art. 11. A church needs a meeting-house, and by a unanimous counsel of all present, agrees to build one by taxation, each one paying in proportion to his true valuation; is it then consistent to make a non-compliance with said counsel a test of fellowship? Answer: We consider that all those who fail to comply with the counsel, would fall into the judgment of the church, but we recommend in such cases that disinterested brethren from some other church or churches be called to the council.

Art. 12. In case a member commits a trespass, and the church views it as such, but the said member can not see it as such, but says, "wherein I have done wrong I want you to forgive me." Now, shall such an acknowledgement be considered sufficient, or shall the offending member be required to acknowledge to the wrong that he has done? Answer: We consider that the church must judge of the sufficiency of the acknowledgement of an offending member.

Art. 13. Is it right, according to the gospel and our profession, for brethren to buy county bonds, bearing six per cent interest, and shave them twelve and a half per cent?

Answer: We think it most consistent with our profession not to deal in such stock. (The five articles which follow next in order came from a district meeting in Virginia, and were presented to this meeting for confirmation)

Art. 14. Is it the duty of the church, in all cases, however aggravated, to reclaim an offending member upon an acknowledgment, or should he be expelled, in extreme cases, even though he should make acknowledgments? Answer: We consider that, in extreme cases, such as mentioned by the apostle in I. Cor. v., the offending members should be expelled and put away from the church until they give evidence of true humility and contrition.

Art. 15. Can a brother be held as a member of the church who will, when put into the army, take up arms and aim to shed the blood of his fellow-man? Answer: He can not.

Art. 16. As some brethren are of the opinion that the communion should be observed more frequently, say three or more times in a year, what is the counsel of this meeting in regard to it? Answer: We think it should be submitted to the discretion of each arm of the church to have as many as two or three in a year, but we exhort brethren in this, as in all other cases, to guard against extremes.

Art. 17. What is the decision of this meeting in case brethren (especially official brethren) exercise a private influence in the election of members to office in the church? If wrong, what is the extent of the offense, and how can it be remedied? Answer: We think such brethren should be admonished, and earnestly entreated to desist from such a course; and, if that will not control him, a committee should be appointed to inform him that if his course is persisted in he will fall into the judgment of the church. The committee should be called from another church.

Art. 18. What is the decision of the council in the case of an elder who refuses to fill the duties of his office? Answer: (As the answer to this question is precisely the same, word for word, with the answer to the last article, we

presume this statement and a reference to that answer are sufficient.)

ART. 19. How is it considered if a brother who is drafted hires a substitute to perform military service, and afterward removes into another district—shall the church grant him a certificate of membership? Answer: Since the law has exempted brethren from military duty, by paying a tax in lieu of service, we consider that brethren do wrong to resort to other means, unless they are ignorant of the provisions of the law.

ART. 20. Is it according to the spirit of the gospel to receive expelled penitent members, as directed by the Annual Meeting of 1840, Article 13, which reads thus: "It was, and is, the mode of the brethren for the members to remain in their places, and the members to be received again, to go from one to another, and thus to be received," etc. Answer: We think there is no necessity for a change in the manner of receiving fallen members.

ART. 21. Is it according to the order of the brethren, and the spirit of the gospel, for the brethren to order and obey those proclamations made by the President of the United States, and the governors of the states, recommending the observance of certain days, such as Thanksgiving days? Answer: Yes, if such proclamations do not conflict with the spirit of the gospel.

ART. 22. As the decisions of the Annual Meeting are not obeyed by all the overseers of the church, would it not be better to district the churches, and extend to those the power to return to the standing committee all those who fail to carry out the advice of the Annual Council? Answer: Yes.

ART. 23. When a member is expelled, according to Matt. XVIII., and does not ask for a rehearing, or a committee at the time he refuses to hear the church, how long is it thought advisable to allow the right to a rehearing, or is a church in duty bound to grant it at any time? Answer:

We consider it best not to limit the time in which a rehearing may be obtained, but an expelled member, wishing a rehearing, should apply for one as soon as practicable.

Art. 24. How will the brethren, assembled in Annual Council, consider the case where elders and ministers have taken sides with the rebels in this bloody rebellion, and voted for separation; can they be held as divine teachers, or not? Answer: They can not, according to the gospel.

Art. 25. Is it consistent with the gospel to retain members in the church who have voluntarily aided and abetted in the rebellion by voting for separation, or by otherwise encouraging it? Answer: No; such should be put away from among us.

Art. 26. Is it right for ministering brethren, or for private members, to speak evil of the rulers of our land in public, and pray that God would open their eyes and change their wicked hearts? And, if it is not right, what is to be done with those who do so? Answer: We consider it wrong to do so (Acts xxiii. 5), and that brethren that have done so should make an acknowledgment for it and promise to do so no more.

Art. 27. What portion of God's word furnishes us with authority, either by commandment, precedent, or example, for funeral preaching, and especially after the interment has been done for months and even years? Answer: We have positive scriptural authority to preach the word at all times and on all occasions when called on. (See II. Tim. iv. 2.)

Art. 28. Has any brother a right to preach that is not elected by the voice of the church? Answer: We think not, according to the apostolic practice and teaching. (See Acts i. 26; vi. 3; II. Tim. ii. 2.)

Art. 29. Has any brother a right to call on a brother to preach in public, who is not yet elected to preach? Answer: We think not, for it is contrary to the gospel, and it causes offense and confusion in the church.

ART. 30. If a brother remove from one arm of the church to another, and can not obtain a certificate of membership from the former church, can the church into which he moved, understanding the difficulty with the former church, be the judge in the matter? Answer: We think not. The church from which the member moved should give the certificate

ART. 31. Is it right for any of our ministering brethren to entertain pro-slavery principles, and preach them publicly and privately? Answer: It is considered not right, according to Luke VI. 31, and if any brother should persist in doing so, he should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 32. How does this meeting consider that part of I. Cor. v., which treats on "avoidance," as practiced by some of our churches? Referred to the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 33. Will this Annual Meeting reconsider Art. 5, of the minutes of 1864? Answer: No. The following is the query referred to, with the answer: "Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to donate money toward building meeting-houses of other denominations? Finding no gospel upon the subject alluded to in the query, we leave it to every one's conscience to direct in the case."

ART. 34. Does the Annual Council make laws, or give advice only, in cases where it has no direct gospel on the subject? Answer: It gives advice only.

ART. 35. Would it not be advisable, in case of an evil report against a member, to take the evidence of persons without the church, if considered by the church as persons of truth, to test the matter, if such evidence be carefully handled? Answer: Yes, for the purpose of testing the truth of the report; but an action or condemnation without an acknowledgment of the accused, or without the evidence of members, would not be proper.

ART. 36. Does this Annual Meeting consider the decisions of sectional councils, which are not brought to the Annual Meeting, the same as those decided by the Annual Meeting;

and it they do, why not take minutes of them, so that satisfaction could be returned to their brethren, who were dissatisfied, by epistle or by word of mouth, as the apostles and elders did at Jerusalem, in the first council? Answer: We consider that all district councils should be careful not to undertake to pass resolutions or decisions concerning the general principles or practice of the whole fraternity, but refer them rather to the Annual Meeting, and confine themselves simply to the settlement of local matters.

Art. 37. Is it a violation of the gospel to feed the people on communion occasions? Answer: We think it is not.

Art. 38. A request to reconsider Art. 23, of 1864. Answer: We consider the answer sufficient as it is. The following is the query referred to, with the answer: "Does this Annual Meeting consider civil government of divine authority, or a mere association for mutual well being? Answer: We consider that it is of divine authority, from the testimony of the Apostle Paul. (See Rom. xiii. 1–8.")

Art. 39. A request to reconsider Art. 16, of the minutes of 1864. Answer: We judge it best to make no change at present in relation to the question alluded to. The following is the query referred to, with the answer: "Is it right, and according to the gospel, for a brother to invest money in government bonds? Answer: We consider it not wrong to do so."

Art. 40. Is it contrary to the gospel to raise funds by taxation? Answer: It is not contrary to the gospel to do so.

Art. 41. What is the order of the church in ordaining a minister by laying on of hands? Answer: It is as follows: 1. A request is deemed necessary to be made by the church, and approved by the elders present. 2. Then the elders take the sense of each member, one by one, to know whether they are satisfied with ordaining the brother oldest in office. And if they agree, and no serious objection is made, the

ordination is proceeded with, which is done by laying on of hands, with prayer, and then the members receive the brother as at the first installation.

Art. 42. As we profess to be a plain people, is it right for brethren to use gilt-edged hymn-books and Bibles, when plain ones are just as good, and more becoming our profession; and should the brethren be allowed to make and sell such? Answer: We advise the brethren to be careful in such matters.

Art. 43. A church being in council assembled, agree pretty much unanimously no more to countenance voting at political elections, according to counsel of the Annual Meeting; is it consistent, then, to make a violation of the counsel of said meeting a test of fellowship, if there is no disposition on the part of those who violate said counsel to make an acknowledgment for it? We want a more definite answer than heretofore given. Answer: Such brethren should be admonished again and again, and if they will not adhere to the counsel of the church, then they should be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

Art. 44. When a church makes a choice for an officer, or for officers, and the bishop and ministers in the church in which the election is to be held, vote, when is the proper time for them to vote, at the beginning or at the close of the election? Answer: We think they should, by all means, vote at the beginning, if they vote at all, and that they should be careful to observe the well-established rules of the brethren relative to such occasions, especially in calling elders from adjoining churches to be present at such times.

Art. 45. What is the difference (if there is any difference) for brethren to have their property insured, or to have their lives insured, as it appears from Art. 3, of the minutes of 1864, that there is quite a difference? Answer: We think there is quite a difference, since we do not think it right to put a money value upon human life, while we may on property.

Art. 46. Inasmuch as some districts have taken council to entirely abstain from voting at political elections, what does the Annual Meeting say to those housekeepers and districts that still continue to vote, and cause hard feelings by doing so? Answer: We admonish such housekeepers and districts to submit to the decisions of the Annual Meeting of 1864, query 1; and if they refuse to do so, they will be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

Art. 47. How are the churches to hold and proceed with those members, who, in heart and soul, have been in sympathy with the rebellion, denouncing the government, and speaking evil of our rulers, especially of President Lincoln? As many members are unwilling to commune with such, a scriptural answer is required. Answer: We consider such brethren as transgressors of the Word, and admonish them to make satisfactory acknowledgment to the church; and if they refuse to do so, they should be dealt with according to the gospel. (See Acts xxiii. 5; Rom. xiii.; II. Peter ii. 10; Titus iii. 1.)

Art. 48. Is it considered according to the gospel, and according to the order of the brethren, for absent members to send their votes to an election in the church by the hands of other members? Answer: It is not.

Art. 49. Inasmuch as there is still a difference of opinion relative to brethren having lightning-rods on their buildings, we wish a decisive answer; and not only a reference to the minutes of 1851 and 1804, as we have referred to them, but still get into difficulty. Likewise the same satisfaction in regard to having our property insured is desired. Answer: We consider it would not be advisable to encourage brethren to do so, but think we should bear with brethren who have already done so.

Art. 50. If a bishop be accused with a fault in ruling or keeping house, and the church calls a committee of elders and delivers unto them the charges, and the committee, upon deliberation, suspends him, or relieves him of his

office, without informing him (the accused) of the charges against him, and giving him no privilege of answering to the charges, and of defending himself, are the proceedings of the church and committee according to order and justice? Answer: No.

Art. 51. As many brethren seem to so far disregard the advice of the Annual Council as to send to the "Gospel Visitor" and "Christian Companion" articles exposing, through their editors, the counsel of the old brethren, will this meeting adopt means to put a stop to these things? Answer: We consider it wrong to do so, and think we should not disregard the counsel and decisions of the Annual Meeting; and such articles as oppose the order of the brethren should not be published, and if the brethren still persist in doing so, they should be dealt with as offenders.

Art. 52. Where is the gospel, either in command, precept, or example, that justifies the idea that there is a first, a second, and a third degree in the ministry? Answer: We have plain scripture to teach a grade of officers in the church. (See Eph. iv. 11): "He gave some, apostles; some, prophets; some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers."

Art. 53. If there is a council-meeting appointed in one arm of the church, has the elder of that district a right to invite another elder of another arm or district to come and assist him in his church, or must the elder of the church, in all such cases, first ask the congregation before he invites another elder to help him? Answer: We think it is advisable for the elder to consult the church, or at least his co-laborers.

Art. 54. Inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion, and some aggrievance, in regard to bells on church houses, we wish the Annual Meeting to decide the matter. Answer: Decided not to have them.

Art. 55. Can the brethren, assembled in our annual district church meetings, pass decisions contrary to the decis-

ions of our Annual Conference, and compel the brethren to practice the same? No.

Art. 56. Inasmuch as there is a difference in the brotherhood in holding an inquest where there is application made for baptism, and for letters of recommendation, some doing it before the whole congregation, and others doing it before the church only. It is desired that in this all the churches practice alike, as members are moving from one state to another, and such difference causes hard feelings and trouble. Answer: We consider such inquest should be held before the church only.

Art. 57. Inasmuch as the brethren in last Yearly Meeting advised brethren to abstain entirely from voting, and when one church receives the minutes, they are read to the church, and the members are admonished not to go to the election, and the elder takes the counsel of the church, and there is a united voice not to go, but there are a few brethren who were not present at the council-meeting, and the decision of the church is sent to them, and they are advised not to go to the election; and then some of the brethren go to the election, when the visiting brethren are sent the second time to notify them not to go, but they go again, after which they are requested to come to the council-meeting, but do not come. The church is then admonished to bear with them, and they are admonished again not to go. If, after all this, they still will go, what is to be done with such brethren? Answer: They should be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

Whereas, it has been plainly proved to the brethren assembled at this Annual Meeting, that William C. Thurman did, on different occasions, say things publicly in his preaching against the practice of the brethren, and has done the same in his writings, and by the course he has pursued he has given offense to the brethren; it is, therefore, the decision of this meeting that we can not recognize him as a minister of the gospel among us until he gives satisfaction to the church.

Requests for committees: 1. The following brethren constitute the committee to the Beaver Dam Church, Maryland: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, John Wise, and Jos. R. Hanawalt. 2. For Kansas: Christian Long and J. Metzger. 3. For Jasper County, Iowa: Christian Long, Jacob Berkey, John Metzger, and J. P. Ebersole. 4. For Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, and John Wise. 5. For the Wabash Church, Indiana: Jacob Miller, of Portage, Daniel B. Sturgis, Hiel Hamilton, and John Bowman. 6. For Bourbon, Indiana: Abraham Whitmer, Christian Wenger, David Rupple, and John Nisely. 7. For Salamony Church, Indiana: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, Jacob Miller, of Portage, and John Metzger.

Contributions for the brethren in Virginia and Tennessee: Bro. Wrightsman, from Tennessee, and Bro. Mumaw, from Virginia, stated to the meeting that the brethren in those states need assistance, and that they must suffer unless they get assistance; whereupon the meeting appointed D. P. Sayler as a receiver to receive contributions for the relief of said brethren. The meeting likewise directed him to appropriate the funds now in his hands, collected for the Oregon mission, to the same purpose. Bro. Sayler's post-office is Double Pipe Creek, Carroll County, Maryland. If money is sent by express to him it should be sent to him in care of the agent of the express company, Frederick City, Maryland.

Request for the Annual Meeting: The Pipe Creek Church, Maryland, renews its request for the Annual Meeting for 1867.

The meeting closed on Wednesday afternoon with devotional exercises.

Standing committee, etc.: D. P. Sayler, Maryland; Joseph Arnold, Virginia; Joseph R. Hanawalt and John Wise, Pennsylvania; Peter Nead and H. D. Davy, Ohio;

Jacob Miller and Hiel Hamilton, Indiana; Isom Gibson and John Metzger, Illinois; Frederick P. Loehr, Michigan; David Brower, Iowa; John Bower, Kansas.

JAMES QUINTER, Clerk.

H. D. DAVY, Moderator.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1866.

The meeting was organized on Monday morning, after which the delegates from the churches reported themselves, and it was ascertained that one hundred and sixty-five churches were represented by two hundred delegates. The delegates were divided into fifteen sub-committees, and to these the business was committed, that they might report to the General Council. The General Council commenced business on Tuesday morning, after devotional exercises. The deferred business of last Annual Meeting being the first business in order before the council, the committee appointed at that meeting to devise some plan for holding our Annual Meetings, which will be more satisfactory to the brotherhood, was called upon for its report and submitted the following:

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The authority for holding general conference meetings is founded on the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and a strict compliance with the example therein is advisable. By reference to said Scripture, we learn that the question in dispute, and upon which the disciples differed, was not referred to a General Council until all efforts had failed to settle it in the church in which it originated. The following language occurs in the chapter above referred to: "When, therefore, Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain others of them, should

go up to Jerusalem unto the apostle and elders about the question." Here seems to be authority to send questions upon which the brethren differ in their judgments to a General Council, and that the bishops ought to go, and also to have certain others with them. It is further said: "And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the gentiles; and they caused great joy unto all the brethren." Here we see that those who were sent were brought on their way by the church. So should we do; that is, help such to go that we send. It is said further that "the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter." Hence we see that the Council Meeting should be for conference only.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

We recommend that the Annual Council be formed by the delegates sent by the district meetings, and by all the ordained elders present; that the meeting be held at the place designated by the council the preceding year, to commence on the first Tuesday after Whit Sunday, the previous Lord's-day (Whit Sunday) to be spent as it has hitherto been by the brethren in worship, at such places in the vicinity in which the meeting is to be held as shall be desired, and as may be judged most profitable; that there be no public meeting for worship where the council-meeting is held, though the meeting should be opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of Acts, and likewise closed with devotional exercises; that the meeting still be held alternately, in the east and in the west.

THE DISTRICT-MEETINGS.

We recommend that each state form itself into convenient district-meetings. These meetings shall be formed by one or two representatives from each organized church,

and we recommend that each church be represented in the district meeting, either by representatives or by letter. We think it best to hold those meetings in simplicity, and as much like the common council-meetings are held, as possible. A record of the district-meetings may be kept, but not published. They should endeavor to settle all questions of a local character. But those of a general character, or those that concern the brotherhood in general, should be taken to the Annual Meeting. And all questions that can not be settled at the district-meetings should be taken to the Annual Meeting. In taking questions from the district to the Annual Meetings, they should be correctly and carefully formed; and all queries from district-meetings should be accompanied with an answer. But in case those meetings can not agree upon any questions, then they shall be referred to the standing committee, and this shall form answers to the questions before they be read before the General Council. And it is considered very desirable, and indeed necessary, that in all cases in answering questions, both in district and Annual Meetings, that some Scripture authority or reason be given for the decision, though it should be done as briefly as possible.

No business can come before district meetings until it has passed through the church in which it originated. It is understood that any member falling under the counsel of the church, and being dissatisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Annual Meeting by presenting a petition, signed by a number of the members of the church. Nothing in this arrangement shall be so construed as to prevent any member from presenting himself before the standing committee of the Annual Meeting, to offer any thing that can not be brought before it in the manner prescribed, and the committee shall hear his case and dispose of it according to its judgment.

The church holding the meeting shall make arrangements to receive and entertain all the brethren and sisters

privately. There shall be no boarding-tent put up at the place of meeting to entertain and feed a mixed multitude, as heretofore.

All churches shall have the privilege to call on the General Council-meeting for committees to investigate grievances, and it shall be its duty to appoint such committees as heretofore.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The bishop and elders of the church holding the Annual Meeting shall select, from among the bishops present, the standing committee. Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, shall each be entitled to three, if present, and two, if present, from each of the remaining states in which churches are established, and whenever said states shall contain ten bishops each, they also shall be entitled to three. The standing committee shall choose its own officers, and these shall be a moderator, two clerks, and a door-keeper. It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order among the members of the committee, and also in the public meeting. He shall not permit two brethren to speak at the same time, and he shall decide who is entitled to the floor. He shall also keep the speakers to the question, and declare the query passed, after general consent, by silence. It shall be the duty of the first clerk to keep a faithful record of all the queries and answers, and prepare them for publication. It shall be the duty of the second clerk to read distinctly all papers as often as requested. It shall be the duty of the door-keeper to take charge of the room in which the committee meet for business, and he shall allow no intrusion in time of session.

As soon as the standing committee has been named they shall retire to a private room for organization and the reception of the queries presented by the delegates from the district-meetings (or churches), after which all proper queries shall be read to the General Council-meeting for

adoption or amendment, and sub-committees be dispensed with.

The proceedings of the Annual Meetings shall be published, and it is earnestly recommended that all the overseers of churches, whether ordained or not, have them faithfully read and observed in their respective charges. And if it be represented to the Annual Meeting that this recommendation is disregarded, it shall be the duty of the standing committee to appoint faithful brethren, whose duty it shall be to visit said churches, and see that the minutes are properly read and observed, and to set in order things that are lacking. The above is unanimously recommended to the Annual Meeting by the committee.

Signed by the committee: D. P. Sayler, Henry Koontz, of Maryland; Benjamin Moomaw, of Virginia; David Derick, of Tennessee; John H. Umstad, John Wise, of Pennsylvania; H. D. Davy, James Quinter, John Hershey, of Ohio; Jacob Miller, Hiel Hamilton, of Indiana; Christian Long, John Bowman, of Illinois; David Brown, of Iowa.

Three members of the committee not being present, John Bowman, Henry Koontz, and James Quinter, were appointed to fill their places.

This report being read before the General Council, was adopted by the following resolution:

Resolved, That we try the committee's report for at least a sufficient length of time to give it a fair trial.

Article 1. A number of questions being presented upon the subject of voting, and some asking for a repeal of former minutes, the following resolution, as an answer to those questions, was adopted:

Resolved, That we think it most expedient not to repeal any minutes touching voting; that this Annual Meeting recommends to the members of the church to refrain from voting, fearing that by voting we may compromise our non-resistant principles; but we recommend forbearance toward

those who vote, not making voting a test of fellowship, hoping that in time they will see with the body of the brethren upon this subject.

ART. 2. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has frequently decided against the brethren voting, is it not inconsistent, and even injurious to the brotherhood, for brethren to write, and editors to publish, any thing in opposition to those decisions? Answer: We think that our brethren, who write and print articles, should be very careful not to promote strife and divisions in the church, but peace, love, union, and holiness.

ART. 3. Is it according to the gospel to hold church meetings in secresy, as we are commanded to take Christ for our example; and he said: "In secret have I said nothing?" John XVIII. 20. Answer: It is according to the gospel, inasmuch as the Savior only says: "In secret have I *said* nothing." Consequently this does not prohibit us from transacting church business in secresy, his language not applying to church meetings. In holding church meetings secretly, we act according to Matt. XVIII, where the Savior says: "Tell it unto the church."

ART. 4. If an elder rejects the decisions or counsel of a committee sent by the Annual Meeting, the majority of the church sustaining him, what course should be pursued to bring him to submit? Answer: We consider it wrong for an elder, with a part of the church, to reject the decision of a committee sent by the Annual Meeting; but in such a case the minority should have the privilege to apply for the same, or another committee.

ART. 5. If a member receives a certificate of membership, is he still considered a member of that arm of the church in which he received the certificate, until he presents it in another arm? And, if so, how long can a member hold a certificate, without presenting it, before he loses his membership entirely? Answer: We think he is, until he had sufficient time to hand in his letter, and has willingly neglected to do so. (See Paul to Philemon.)

ART. 6. Does this Annual Meeting judge it expedient to reconsider Art. 13, of the minutes of 1840, and Art. 20, of the minutes of 1865? Answer: We think it not expedient to do so.

ART. 7. Is it according to the order of the gospel for brethren, being mourners, to keep their hats on in time of funeral services, at prayer, and preaching, etc.? And should brethren dress their dead after the fashion of the world? Answer: We think not; for the apostle says: "It is a shame for a man to pray or prophesy having his head covered" (I. Cor. II.); and we think a white shroud becomes our dead the best.

ART. 8. A man was baptized by the brethren, but he afterward left the church, with the plea that he never believed there was a God, and that he joined the church for worldly gain; but afterward he wishes to join the church, and to be baptized, and says he now believes in Christ, and lives as becomes a Christian. Can he be received without being re-baptized? It was considered best to defer this question to the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 9. A member is charged with a crime, but before the case was investigated he removes to a distant country. Is it in accordance with the gospel for the church from which he moved to expel that member without first investigating the case, either when he is present, or by writing? Answer: We think that churches should be very careful not to expel members without giving them an opportunity of defending themselves; and, as a general rule, we consider it improper to do so; but there may be cases in which the church is justified in expelling members in their absence.

ART. 10. Would it be profitable and apostolic to number the brethren and sisters, and report the numerical strength of the brotherhood at the next Annual Meeting? Answer: We consider it not apostolic, inasmuch as the apostles never gave the exact number of believers. Acts II. 4–47; IV. 4.

ART. 11. There being a considerable number of persons in Tennessee, belonging to a body of professing Christians, known as the J. A. Bowman Church, he having been at one time in fellowship with the brethren. This body expressed a wish to our brethren in Tennessee to become united to the brethren, and a committee of brethren in Tennessee was appointed to confer with the J. A. Bowman Church relative to a union; but the brethren in Tennessee preferred to submit the case to the Annual Meeting, and it appointed the following brethren as a committee to visit the J. A. Bowman Church to confer with it, and to receive it into fellowship with us, if judged proper to do so: J. P. Ebersole and H. D. Davy, of Ohio; John Metzger and C. Long, of Illinois; Jacob Miller and J. Bowman, of Indiana; J. Wise and D. M. Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; D. P. Sayler and H. Koontz, of Maryland; Daniel Thomas and Solomon Garver, of Virginia.

ART. 12. Can the brethren in Missouri take the oath of loyalty, as set forth in the new constitution of that state, to get the privilege to preach the gospel? Answer: They can not take that oath, if it conflicts with the principles of the gospel, as the brethren receive those principles, but we think that a proper construction of the constitution will not require any compromise of our principles. And we recommend to our brethren in Missouri to ascertain from the proper officers the true import of the oath, to see whether it does conflict with our Christian principles.

ART. 13. As it is the practice in some congregations to have the supper on the table at feet-washing, while in others they have it not on, can not this Annual Meeting bring about a uniformity upon this subject? Answer: Though we desire uniformity, yet we would refer the brethren, at present, to Art. 21, of the Annual Meeting of 1863.

ART. 14. How is it considered if a minister violates his marriage contract, by committing adultery secretly, and continues the transgression for over one year, and in the

meantime seeks and obtains the ordained elder's place, discharges all the holy functions of that office, preaching, baptizing, anointing the sick, solemnizing marriages, and breaking bread; can he ever be received again? And, if so, how long after having been expelled? Answer: We think he can, as a private member, but not until the church in which he lives is fully satisfied that his conduct throughout proves that he has indeed repented. II. Cor. II. 6–8.

Art. 15. Is it right for a brother to lease a piece of ground to an agricultural society, for ten years, for the purpose of holding county fairs on? If not, what shall be done with such a brother? Answer: We consider it not right; and we think he should give satisfaction to the church; and should he refuse to do so, let him be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

Art. 16. What shall be done in case a husband will not live with his wife, and she obtains a divorce, and marries another, and after living with him for several years, she desires admission into the church, and is received; but some object to her reception, saying they can not fellowship her; can she be retained as a member? And, if so, what shall be done with those who refuse to fellowship her? Answer: We think, under existing circumstances, she can not be retained as a member. (See Minutes of 1850, Art. 12.)

Art. 17. Is it in accordance with the gospel for ministering brethren, when traveling, to keep and have published a record of their travels, telling how many meetings they attended, how many were converted, who took them from place to place, with whom they staid over night, besides many little incidents seen by the way, etc.? Answer: We have no gospel command to do so, but if it is done it should be to edification, and a too minute detail of particulars should be avoided, deeming that useless.

Art. 18. Should not brethren, according to the gospel, be prohibited from selling and circulating books, circulars, etc., at our Annual Meetings—hymn-books and Bibles ex-

cepted? Answer: We think the gospel does not prohibit us from selling books comporting with the gospel, and approved by the brethren. But we consider it not consistent to do so on the Sabbath-day.

Art. 19. A request to reconsider answer to Art. 40, 1865: It was reconsidered, but postponed.

Art. 20. Inasmuch as the subject of lightning-rods has been before the Annual Council, and brethren have only been advised to bear with one another, which we consider is no decision at all; for, if right, why not recommend it to all, and, if wrong, why tolerate it at all? Answer: As we have no command to erect or forbid lightning-rods, we would not advise brethren to put up such rods, but the brethren should bear with one another in love in such matters. (Minutes of 1851, Art. 7, and of 1856, Art. 25.

Art. 21. Inasmuch as the freedmen of the south are in a starving condition, and also destitute of education and Christianity, would not this district council-meeting (southern district of Indiana) think it advisable to adopt some plan for their relief, and present it to our next Annual Conference for their deliberation? Whereupon it was resolved that this meeting make arrangements to raise funds, and appoint two brethren to go into the Southern States as soon as the nature of the case will admit of it, and distribute those funds among the needy, irrespective of color, and also preach the gospel whenever opportunity may present itself. (Some further particulars relative to the manner of raising the funds were given, but are here omitted for want of room.) It was further concluded to submit the above to the Annual Meeting, and if not approved of, it was not to be carried out. The following is the action of the Annual Meeting upon the above: We heartily approve of the above, and bid our brethren God speed, and recommend to our brotherhood to imitate the worthy example of our dear brethren in southern Indiana.

Art. 22. Whose duty is it to perform the annual church

visit? the visiting brethren's duty alone, or is it also a duty enjoined upon the speakers to help to perform it? Answer: We consider it is the deacon's duty to perform the yearly visit, by order of the church, as it belongs to their commission; yet, if speakers see proper to assist them, they can do so.

ART. 23. Inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion among the brethren in reference to what constitutes a reasonable excuse for going upon stands or pulpits in meeting-houses of other denominations, will the brethren in Annual Council give a more definite answer upon this subject? Answer: We recommend the brethren to bear with one another, allowing every brother to keep his conscience clear, as we have no "thus saith the Lord" for it.

ART. 24. Is it allowed for brethren to travel through the country selling patent rights, and buying stock for speculators, being looked at as sharp traders? If not approved of, what shall be done in such cases? Answer: This meeting does not approve of brethren doing so, and if it is done, we recommend the churches having the care of such who do it, to attend to it.

ART. 25. What do the brethren call fallen members, those that are in avoidance only, or all of them that are put out of the church? Answer: We think that all that are put out of the church by avoidance, or according to Matt. XVIII., are so called.

ART. 26. What shall the church do with a ministering brother that has promised three times to the church to conform to the order of the church in point of dress and apparel, and the time set for him to do so, but the time expires, and he does not make his promise good, and also influences members against conforming to the rules laid down in the gospel relative to non-conformity to the fashion of the world? Answer: We advise the church having brethren who fail to comply with their promises, as above stated, to deal with them according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 27. Inasmuch as pride and an inclination to follow the fashions of the world are still increasing among us, in wearing fine apparel, frock and sack coats, dusters, shawls, etc., with the hair parted off to one side, or shingled and roached, moustaches, etc.; the sisters also wearing fine apparel, going without caps, wearing hoops, hats, vails, overcoats, jewelry, etc.; and, as admonition, in some cases, has not effected any thing, can not this Yearly Meeting propose some plan by which this growing evil may be arrested? Answer: We think members of the church, conforming to the fashions of the world as above stated, should be admonished again and again, and if they will not hear the church, the Savior has given directions in Matt. XVIII. how to deal with them.

ART. 28. Should not colored members be held equal with white members in church privileges? Answer: We refer to minutes of 1835, Art. 1; and 1845, Art. 2; and 1849, Art. 31.

ART. 29. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that bells on meeting-houses, giving offense, is wrong, does this Annual Meeting say that bells on meeting-houses in towns or cities (though of great advantage) should be taken down, or should they be regarded as lightning-rods, dinner bells, and like things, giving like offenses? and if not so regarded, will this Annual Meeting give gospel grounds for not admitting church bells on meeting-houses in towns or cities? Answer: We think it best for brethren to be subject to the decision of the Annual Meeting, and if reconciliation can not be made, it would be best to take them down, according to Romans XIV. 15–21, and avoid giving offense.

ART. 30. A young man enlists in the service of the government of the United States, and after being in camp a month, deserts and returns home secretly, and, with the consent of his parents, changes his name to his mother's maiden name, retaining his given name as a middle name. He

then goes into another part of the state and gets married, and becomes a member of the church under his assumed name. Some six or eight months afterward the church gets to hear of this, and when he is asked concerning it, he frankly admits that it was so, and was sorry that it so happened. What is now the duty of the church in this case? Answer: Inasmuch as said brother entered into the marriage contract under a fictitious name, and also in violation of Romans XIII. 1, and has also deceived the church, the duty of said church would be to make it his duty to have the marriage legalized, and make good satisfaction for said deception.

ART. 31. Does this meeting approve of a brother who is a physician to forward his reputation by stating in his bills and circulars that he is a member of the German Baptist Church? Answer: We do not approve of it.

ART. 32. Is it agreeable with the gospel for brethren to put a reward on their horses or other property when stolen, and try to recover the same? Answer: Is it not according to Luke VI. 30.

ART. 33. Will the Annual Meeting inform what course to pursue in the following case: A member is put in avoidance, and an elder from another state, knowing it, visits, salutes with the kiss, and eats with the avoided person; and when he is told that in doing so he has grieved the brethren, he threatens the church or district. Answer: We consider that the church aggrieved should select a committee of three ordained elders, who shall notify the offending elder of the time and place of meeting, and then investigate the case, and dispose of it according to their judgment. And we decide that an elder has no right to disrespect the action of another church in this manner. If a church should do wrong, it should be proceeded against in the regular gospel manner.

ART. 34. Is it considered conforming to the world for ministering brethren, or others, to have musical instru-

ments, such as melodeons, pianos, etc., in their houses, and for their children, who are members of the church, to spend their precious time in playing on such instruments? Answer: Considered, that it is tending too much in that direction, the world being largely engaged in it, and we have no example in the New Testament that it was ever indulged in by Christians. Yet, if strictly confined to sacred music, we can not positively prohibit it, but advise all the beloved members to deny themselves of this indulgence, believing that it is attended with dangerous consequences.

Art. 35. Is a single brother eligible to the office of bishop or deacon? And does Paul mean, when he says to Timothy, "Let the deacon be the husband of one wife," that he must be a married man, or does he mean that he shall have but one wife at a time? I. Tim. III. 12. Answer: We consider that a single brother can hold the office of a bishop or deacon, if duly qualified in other respects, and that married brethren can hold either office, being the husband of one wife at a time.

Art. 36. What is the proper course for members to pursue when they hear a slanderous report against a member of the church, or even persons of the world? Answer: In all cases we should hear reports with great allowance, and when it is confirmed against a member, it should be brought before the church through the official body. As to persons of the world, we should, by no means, circulate slanderous reports of them, it being, in all cases, calculated to engender strife and confusion.

Art. 37. Inasmuch as the subject of avoidance, at our last Annual Meeting, was laid over for a more mature consideration at this Annual Meeting, we, the brethren assembled at an annual district council-meeting, petition this conference to make no change, but let the avoidance be enforced in certain cases. Considered, the majority of us are not willing to make any change.

Art. 38. Can a man be received into the church, and hold his office as assessor? We think he can not consistently with the gospel. John xviii. 36; Matt. vi. 24.

Art. 39. Is it allowed for brethren, and especially preachers or deacons, to travel through the country, trafficing in fruit-trees, and, in their anxiety to sell, use great efforts to sell at extravagant prices, making it quite a speculative business to themselves and to their employers? Answer: We consider it wrong, according to Matt. vii. 12, and brethren who deal in trees should deal honestly, as they should in all their dealings.

Art. 40. How is it considered if a neighboring church still holds persons as members who joined a secret society, without calling them to answer for their conduct, the elders knowing such to be the case? Shall we go to their communion, or invite them to ours? Considered not according to II. Cor. vi. 14.

Art. 41. Is it according to the gospel for members, or any body of members, to pay a stated salary to our ministering brethren, for the support of their families, that they may give themselves wholly to their ministerial labors? Answer: Not wrong to support the ministry, where it is needed. I. Tim. v. 18; Luke x. 7. But we do not approve of paying a stated salary.

Art. 42. How is it considered by the brethren in Annual Council, for sisters, who are in needy circumstances, to avail themselves of the benefit of an act, passed by the legislature of Pennsylvania, granting a gratuity and pension to the soldiers of the war of 1812, or to their widows? Considered right for them to receive it.

Art. 43. Would it not be more consistent with the teaching of the gospel, in receiving disowned members, for the members of the church to go to the disowned members, and receive them, than for the disowned members to go around to the members of the church, and be received by them in that way? Answer: Inasmuch as we find that

the practice laid down in the minutes, referred to above, has not been a general one hitherto, and as it seems a union of sentiment can not be effected at this meeting, we would feel to leave the matter optional with the churches for the present.

ART. 44. This question refers to the case of the church receiving a class of persons separated from their former partners in the marriage contract, and who have married again. It was concluded to postpone this question to the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 45. We ask this Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 6, of 1864, and, if not changed, to give a more scriptural reason why brethren should not serve as jurors. Answer: We advise our brethren not to serve as jurors when they can avoid it.

ART. 46. Resolved, that Art. 47, of the minutes of 1865, be altered to read, "The President of the United States," instead of "President Lincoln."

ART. 47. The following resolution was proposed to the Annual Meeting, by a district meeting, with a request that it be adopted:

Resolved, by this Annual Meeting, That the churches throughout the brotherhood enforce plainness of dress, and a plain manner of wearing the hair and beard, upon the preachers and officers of the churches. By plainness of dress, we mean the common order of giving shape to dress, as practiced by the old brethren and sisters generally, and by plainness of hair we mean the hair parted on the top of the head, or all combed back in a plain manner, or combed straight down all around the head, and not having the hair and beard trimmed according to the custom of the world.

Considered, that this Annual Meeting unanimously adopt this resolution, according to Rom. XII. 2; I. Peter I. 14; I. John II. 15, 16; and that all preachers and officers that follow the fashions of the world in the foregoing particulars, violate the order of the gospel by doing so, and render

themselves liable to be brought under the counsel of the church.

Art. 48. Requests for committees: 1. For a committee to visit the White Oak Church, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The following brethren are on this committee: Joseph Hanawalt, Moses Miller, Isaac Meyers, Daniel Keller, and Andrew Miller. 2. For a committee to visit the Swatara Church, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. David Gerlach, Moses Miller, Andrew Miller, and Daniel Keller. 3. For a committee to visit the Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. H. D. Davy, John P. Ebersole, John Wise, John M. Holsinger, and John G. Glock.

In response to a petition from the brethren in Virginia, for pecuniary help for Bro. Peter Crumpacker, an elder in the church, who lost three thousand dollars in getting his brethren out of prison, and by being robbed by the rebels, this Annual Meeting recommends to all the churches in the north to assist liberally this worthy brother to bear his loss which he, through love to his brethren, sustains. And we appoint Bro. Benjamin Moomaw the receiver, to receive the funds collected. His express office is Bonsacks, Roanoke County, Virginia, and his post-office is the same.

Bro. William C. Thurman appearing at the meeting, and giving satisfaction to the brethren, was restored to his office as a minister. The following was submitted to him, and he accepted it by signing it: "He shall consent to give and take counsel, and to teach and obey the gospel, omitting to mention, in preaching on the doctrine of feet-washing among the brethren, and everywhere else, that the one who washes should wipe. His course shall be referred to the Annual Council, if any objections whatever are urged against him. He shall go to Virginia, where he was chosen to the ministry, and be installed in his office, according to the order of the church, and be subject to the church.

"W. C. Thurman."

It was considered advisable that the several states make provision to bear the expenses of the committee appointed to go to Tennessee. Each state will provide for the brethren who go from it.

There was a request made by the district meeting of northern Indiana, for the Annual Meeting of 1868.

The request from the Pipe Creek Church, for the meeting in 1867, was renewed; and the next Annual Meeting will be, the Lord willing, with the Pipe Creek Church, Carroll County, Maryland. Brethren going there are recommended to go to Baltimore City, then take the Western Maryland Railroad for Linwood Station, it being one mile and a half from the place of meeting. Brethren having occasion to write for information, will address Philip Boyle, New Windsor, Maryland, or David Miller, Frizzleburg, Maryland.

Standing committee: Daniel Keller, John Wise, of Pennsylvania; H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, of Ohio; Christian Keefer, Henry Koontz, of Maryland; John Wine, Daniel Thomas, of Virginia; Jacob Miller, J. Knisely, of Indiana; C. Long, S. Garber, of Illinois; D. Derrich, of Tennessee.

. D. Davy, Moderator.

James Quinter, Clerk.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1867.

After the devotional exercises on Tuesday morning, the standing committee was appointed, and the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles was read.

The following brethren were named as the committee: Joseph Riser, H. D. Davy, and James Quinter, of Ohio; David Miller, Jacob Metzger, and Jesse Myers, of Indiana; Christian Long and John Fitz, of Illinois; Peter Long,

Andrew Miller, and John Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; Peter Crumpacker, Daniel Thomas, and John Wine, of Virginia; David Rittenhouse and John Murray, of Iowa; F. P. Loehr, of Michigan; Henry Koontz, Isaac Pfoutz and D. P. Sayler, of Maryland.

The meeting was then organized by appointing H. D. Davy, moderator, J. Quinter, first clerk, D. P. Sayler, second clerk, and John Weybright, door-keeper.

After the organization the following delegates reported themselves to the standing committee: 1. Southern district of Ohio, Joseph Riser, Abraham Flory. 2. Northwestern district of Ohio, J. P. Ebersole, Joseph Kauffman. 3. Eastern district of Ohio, H. D. Davy, Jacob Garver. 4. Southern district of Indiana, Hiel Hamilton. 5. Middle district of Indiana, Jacob Metzger, Jesse Myers. 6. Northern district of Indiana, D. Miller, F. P. Loehr. 7. Southern district of Illinois, I. Gibson, J. Fitz. 8. Northern district of Illinois, C. Long, J. W. Price. 9. Eastern district of Pennsylvania, D. Gerlach, William Hertzler. 10. Middle district of Pennsylvania, D. M. Holsinger, D. Bosserman. 11 Western district of Pennsylvania, John Wise, Ephraim Cober. 12. First district of Virginia, Abraham Neff, P. Nininger, B. F. Moomaw. 13. Second district of Virginia, J. Wine, D. Thomas. 14. Third district of Virginia, M. Cosner. 15. District of Iowa, David Rittenhouse, John Murray. 16. District of western Maryland, David Long, E. Slifer. 17. District of eastern Maryland, Philip Boyle, D. P. Sayler. 18. District of Tennessee, P. Wrightsman, J. B. Pence.

Article 1. The district of southern Ohio respectfully requests the Annual Meeting to give some more definite direction than we now have for dealing with a church that is altogether out of the order of the gospel. Answer: We think that the direction for meeting such cases as alluded to above, is contained in the minutes of last Annual Meet-

ing, and if that direction is understood and carried out, nothing further is necessary.

Art. 2. Would it not be well to have the same questions asked throughout the brotherhood, on our annual visits? Answer: We think it would, and the following form of questions is given: 1. Are you still in the faith of the gospel, as you declared in your baptism? 2. Are you, as far as you know, in peace and union with the church? 3. Will you still labor with the brethren for an increase of holiness, both in yourself and others? 4. Liberty should be given to members to bring any thing they may desire to, and that they may think the good of the church requires, before the visiting brethren.

Art. 3. What is the order of the brethren when members have become entirely dependent upon the church? Have they the privilege of moving from one branch of the church to another without the consent of the church into which they propose to move? Answer: The church into which such members propose to move should first be counseled before they move, and if this is not complied with, the charges should be paid by the church from which they moved.

Art. 4. A request to change the word *enforce*, in Art. 47 of 1866, to *advise*. Answer: We consider it not best to change the word in the connection in which it stands, as it applies to the officers of the church, for whom it was designed.

Art. 5. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to act as administrators or executors, in the capacity that the law requires? And if it is, has the church a right to require such to absent themselves from the communion? The Annual Meeting is also requested to reconcile Art. 24, of 1864, with Art. 2, of 1821. Answer: We consider it not advisable for brethren to act in the capacity of administrators or executors, as it is attended with much difficulty. And, as it regards reconciling the two articles above named, there

is not really as much difference as at first appears, since in Art. 2, 1821, permission is granted to the brethren to serve in the capacity alluded to, under certain circumstances.

Art. 6. Is it in accordance with the gospel for a brother to refuse paying his just debts, declaring his wife to be the lawful owner of all his property? Answer: We consider it unjust for a brother to do so, and that such conduct should not be tolerated.

Art. 7. Is it consistent with the gospel for members of the church to have their profiles or miniatures taken; and, if inconsistent, how shall the church deal with such members who do so? Answer: As the brethren, in Annual Council in former years, decided it to be wrong, or inconsistent, for members to have their profiles or miniatures taken, we advise them not to do so.

Art. 8. When there are two places of meeting in a congregation, the elder attending at one place, and two other ministering brethren at the other, is it according to the gospel for a minister in the second degree to authorize a brother in the first degree to baptize, after counseling the members present, in the absence of the elder or bishop? Answer: We unanimously consider it consistent and valid, when authorized by a minister in the second degree and the members present.

Art. 9. If a member of a certain church is put in avoidance, how should members of those churches that can not see that avoidance is necessary hold such that are put in avoidance? Answer: The adjoining churches, and members of adjoining churches, are to hold them as such, and also avoid all speaking against avoidance to the avoided one.

Art. 10. Can we not get a more scriptural plan to elect church officers? Answer: We consider it best to defer this query for further consideration.

Art. 11. Would it not be better for all the churches to have one mode for holding the Lord's Supper? Answer:

We think it would be better, and hope the time will come when there will be a unanimity of practice among the brethren upon this subject, and we recommend all the brethren to pray and labor for this.

ART. 12. Inasmuch as it seems to have been the practice of the apostles, in setting a member apart for any special duty in the church, to do so by prayer and laying on of hands, would it not be more in accordance with the gospel to establish visiting brethren and speakers in their offices by prayer and laying on of hands, according to Acts VI. 6, and XIII. 3? Answer: Inasmuch as it does not appear plainly to all the brethren that it was always the practice of the apostles to lay hands on those appointed to any special duty, we therefore think it best to make no change at present in the order of installing speakers and deacons in their offices.

ART. 13. Inasmuch as the church of the brethren has always endeavored to maintain the principle of temperance, will the brethren composing this Annual Meeting admit that members may join a temperance society, in the present form such societies take, outside of the church? Answer: As our brotherhood has, again and again, taken decided ground against intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and recommended to the brethren to abstain from their use as such, we see no necessity of joining ourselves to any other organization; and, therefore, we can not allow brethren the privilege of doing so, but renew our solemn protestation against the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and consider it the duty of every member of the church to use his influence against them.

ART. 14. Is it expedient for brethren to put a reward on their property, when stolen, and try to recover the same? Answer: We consider the Scripture to be satisfactory in the above case, without human expediency. Luke VI. 30.

ART. 15. Would not the following be a better way for organizing the Annual Meeting than that which is now

practiced? Let each district council select one ordained elder as a member of the standing committee of the Annual Meeting, and should any vacancy or vacancies occur, the elders of the church holding the Annual Meeting shall supply the same from among the ordained elders present at the meeting. Answer: We think it best to lay this question over until next year, with the understanding that the brethren where the next Annual Meeting will be held be instructed to select the standing committee, as much as practicable, according to the foregoing plan.

Art. 16. Does the fornication committed, as in Matt. xix. 9, place the parties in such a position that they can never be reconciled to each other and live together again? Answer: The guilty party giving evidence of true repentance, they may be reconciled. (See I. Cor. vii. 11; II. Cor. ii. 6, 7.)

Art. 17. We desire this Annual Meeting to consider Art. 18, of the minutes of 1856, and give us the scriptural rule to govern such cases. Answer: If the cause of separation be malice and ill-will, they can not be retained in the church, according to Heb. xii. 14, 15.

Art. 18. Do the Scriptures teach that it is committing adultery to marry a person who is divorced, while the first partner is living? Answer: They do. (See Luke xvi. 18.)

Art. 19. In the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1866, page 2, it is said that "any member falling under the counsel of the church, and being dissatisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Annual Meeting, by presenting a petition, signed by a number of the members of the church." Would it not be better to reconsider this clause or paragraph, and put it back to the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1849, Art. 26? Answer: We think it not advisable to repeal the paragraph, but that we add what was intended, namely, this: The Annual Meeting shall hear their petition, through the standing committee, and if they deem their claim just, they shall grant them a committee, who shall examine the case, and their decision shall be final.

ART. 20. If a brother wrongs a neighbor, who is not a member of the church, by not fulfilling his promise, so that his neighbor suffers damage; and the church, taking the matter into consideration, expels the brother for doing this and other crimes. Now, we wish to know whether the church has the right to receive that brother into the church again before he has made restitution. If it is wrong for a church to do so, what is to be done? What is to be done with a church that has done so? Answer: The proceedings are wrong; and unless the church requires the brother to make restitution, the church shall make restitution.

ART. 21. Who are the proper persons to perform the duty of anointing the sick? James v. 14, 15. Answer: We think the minutes of former Annual Meetings give a satisfactory answer to this query.

ART. 22. Has Bro. E. Heyser a right, being a minister-ing brother, to receive pay from the government for teaching school in the South, under the employment and protection of the Freedmen's Bureau? Answer: Inasmuch as Bro. Heyser is employed by the government in teaching school, and not in preaching the gospel, we can see no impropriety in the government paying him for teaching.

ART. 23. Do not the Scriptures enjoin fasting, in connection with prayer, as a frequent service? and will not this meeting recommend it, as a means of promoting a higher degree of perfection and holiness? Answer. We think that according to the Scripture fasting, in connection with prayer, is attended with great advantages to those who observe it, and we earnestly exhort the brethren not to neglect this duty and privilege, as a private institution (Acts x. 30); and that in important cases it should be enjoined upon the members as a means of sanctification and qualification for important duties. Acts XIII. 1–3.

ART. 24. What is the established usage of the church in the use of the civil law in collecting debts, etc.? Is it altogether forbidden? If not, what is the extent of the privi-

lege? If it is, can it be allowed for members, and especially ministers, to advise persons to sue, and publish a notice to their creditors that if their bonds are not paid when due they will be coerced by law? Answer: We consider it is contrary to the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to use the civil law in collecting debts, or in any other case where it would involve strife or litigation. Friendly suits are admitted, when the case is decided to be such by the council of the church. But to advise others to sue, or to publish that we will sue, is inconsistent with our principles, and would subject a brother to the judgment of the church, according to the gospel. (See Matt. v. 40; Luke vi. 29.)

Art. 25. Can brethren be allowed to officiate in reconstructing the government, in holding elections, and participating in conventions? Answer: We consider it contrary to the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to act officially in any government matter whatever. Luke xvi. 13.

Art. 26. What is to be done with the housekeeper in an arm of the church, who neglects to examine the applicant for baptism, as laid down in the minutes of 1848, and republished in the minutes of 1858? Answer: We think the elders of the adjoining churches should visit the housekeeper, and admonish him to proceed according to the order of the brethren, as laid down in the minutes.

Art. 27. Inasmuch as there are some members who are dissatisfied with the present manner of washing feet, and think that the one that washes should also wipe, can not the Annual Meeting grant a change, and bear with those that wish to practice as they understand it? Answer: We consider it not advisable to make any change in the practice of feet-washing as heretofore practiced by the brethren.

Art. 28. Would it not be more consistent with all other rules and orders of the brethren to elect elders by votes, in all cases? Answer: We consider it best to make no change in the general manner of appointing elders, but we

think cases may occur when the church, acting in concert with the elders who visit a church to ordain an elder, may take the voice of the church in which the ordination is to take place, to know which of the ministering brethren in the church desires to be ordained.

ART. 29. Is it consistent with the gospel to apply the term reverend to ministers of other denominations, or to our own brethren, either in speaking or writing? Answer: We consider it not right to do so, since it is applied in the Bible alone to God.

ART. 30. Should not our church adopt some general plan for the spread of the gospel, as the duty is enjoined upon her by the Savior himself? And does not an efficient plan imply some pecuniary provision? Answer: This Annual Meeting hails the desire to have the gospel spread, and which is growing among the brethren as a favorable indication, and it would encourage this and recommend to the several states to take such measures as a prayerful consideration of the subject would suggest, to engage in this good work; and it would also recommend that such plans be adopted as would suggest themselves by such consideration, since no one plan can now be united upon, hoping that, as the work progresses, and as further light is elicited by reflection, observation, and experience, a greater and more efficient system may be adopted. In the meantime, let whatever is done be done according to the spirit and word of the gospel, as work done in any other way will not be approved by the Lord.

ART. 31. Should not the Annual Meeting adopt some definite rule with regard to the action of special committees asked for by any branch of the church, to settle matters that could not be settled otherwise? Answer: Whereas, it is the privilege of any branch of the church, or member, to have a committee when asked for, such committee should have full power to dispose of any case submitted to it, provided the usual methods have been resorted to previously;

and when settled by such committee, the decision shall be final. Acts xv. 22. (The five following articles were deferred to the next Annual Meeting, and will be acted upon as the first business of said meeting. The first four are answered by the district-meeting from which they came, and have only the authority of the district-meeting, and the answers are subject to any change the Annual Meeting may make, before they have the authority of the Annual Meeting. To the fifth or last question no answer was given by the district-meeting from which it came. The Annual Meeting directed these articles to be put on the minutes.)

Art. 32. Do the words of the Savior, "Except for fornication," as they stand connected with his other language, in the ninth verse of the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, *annul* the marriage covenant or contract, or do they only suspend it until fruits worthy of repentance are manifested on the part of the transgressor—to the satisfaction of the church. Considered by this meeting that the words in question do annul the marriage contract. Referred.

Art. 33. Art. 40, on the minutes of the Yearly Meeting for 1865, being in relation to raising money by taxation—considered by this district-meeting that the article should be reconsidered by the Yearly Meeting, inasmuch as this district-meeting concluded that it is not contrary to the gospel to raise funds by taxation, provided all the members in the same church are agreed to do so; but a noncompliance should not be a test of fellowship. Referred.

Art. 34. Art. 8, as it stands on the minutes of the Yearly Meeting for 1866, relates to a brother who had expressed a desire to be re-baptized. Considered by this district-meeting that the case be referred to the church in which it exists, and the brethren there be authorized by the Yearly Meeting to proceed as the nature of the case may require. Referred.

Art. 35. Is it considered expedient for brethren to join

debating schools or lyceums? Considered by this meeting that it is not expedient for brethren to do so. Referred.

ART. 36. A man, having a wife, and she leaves him and takes up with several other men, one of whom is compelled by law to marry her; and some time after this the first-mentioned man marries a single woman, and this woman made application to be received into the church, and the circumstances, as given above, not being known by the church, she was baptized; and then her husband also made application to be received. We desire the judgment of the Annual Meeting, whether this woman can be retained in the church, and whether her husband can be received?

The following committees were appointed by the meeting by request: 1. A committee to visit the Paint Creek and White Oak churches in southern Ohio. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, John Hershey, John Frantz, Peter Nead, and James Quinter. 2. For Cherry Grove, Carroll County, Illinois, Samuel Gerber, Michael Sisler, and Martin Myers. 3. For the Brush Creek Church, Maryland, David Long, David Bosserman, and Henry Koontz. 4. For the Ridge Church, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Moses Miller, D. Bosserman, J. G. Glock, Joseph Hanawalt, and Andrew Miller. 5. For New Hope Church, Augusta County, Virginia, Daniel Thomas, Jacob Miller, and Isaac Long. 6. For Otter Creek Church, Macoupin County, Illinois, J. R. Gish, John Fitz, Jacob Negley.

A request from the brethren in Elkhart County, Indiana, for the Annual Meeting in 1868, was made and granted. Accordingly, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren above named.

After a season of devotional exercises the meeting adjourned.

J. QUINTER. }
D. P. SAYLER, } Clerks.

H. D. DAVY, Moderator.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1868.

On Tuesday morning, the 2d of June, an unusually large number of brethren being present, after the devotional exercises, the following brethren were announced as forming the standing committee: John P. Ebersole, Daniel Miller, Henry D. Davy, James Quinter, B. F. Moomaw, Daniel Thomas, Jacob Wine, D. P. Sayler, Isaac Pfoutz, David Long, Conrod J. Lint, Daniel M. Holsinger, Joseph Rohrer, David Bechtelheimer, Jacob Miller, Daniel Bowman, F. P. Loehr, Christian Long, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, John Wise, Jacob Brower, Abraham Replogle, and Henry Brubaker. Bro. H. Kurtz and Peter Nead were invited to be present with the standing committee. The meeting was then regularly organized by appointing H. D. Davy, moderator, James Quinter, first clerk, D. P. Sayler, second clerk, and Jacob Miller, door-keeper. It was then ascertained that the following state districts were represented: Virginia, district No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3; Maryland, the eastern and the western district; Pennsylvania, the eastern, the middle, and the western district; Ohio, the northwestern, the southern, and the eastern; Indiana, the southern, the middle, and the northern district; Michigan; Illinois, the northern and the southern district; Iowa, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Kansas. The delegates then, as they were called, presented their papers, and the following articles were found to constitute the business before the meeting. These were prayerfully considered and answered as the Scripture, reason, and experience seemed to require. (The first five articles acted upon were referred from the last meeting to the present.)

Article 1. Do the words of the Savior, "Except for fornication," as they stand connected with his other language, in the ninth verse of the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, *annul* the marriage covenant or contract, or do they only

suspend it until fruits worthy of repentance are manifested on the part of the transgressor—to the satisfaction of the church? Considered, by this meeting that the words in question do annul the marriage contract. Answer: We postpone this question indefinitely, but advise the churches to proceed cautiously when they have cases of this character to act upon.

ART. 2. The second query asked for a reconsideration of Art. 40, of 1865, being in relation to raising money by taxation. Answer: Though it may not be contrary to the gospel to raise funds by taxation, yet we think it is not expedient to do so. But we do believe that brethren should, in all their contributions to promote benevolent or charitable causes in the church of Christ, contribute, as a general gospel rule, according to what God has blessed them with.

ART. 3. This query refers to Art. 8, of 1866, and relates to a brother who wished to be re-baptized. Answer: Inasmuch as we are informed that the case to which this article refers was disposed of in the church in which it occurred, we think it best to give it no further consideration at present.

ART. 4. Is it considered expedient for brethren to join debating schools or lyceums? Answer: We think it not expedient for brethren to do so.

ART. 5. A man, having a wife, and she leaves him and takes up with several other men, one of whom is compelled by law to marry her; and some time after this the first-mentioned man marries a single woman, and this woman made application to be received into the church, and the circumstances, as given above, not being known by the church, she was baptized; and then her husband also made application to be received. We desire the judgment of the Annual Meeting, whether this woman can be retained in the church, and whether her husband can be received. Answer: We refer this question back to the church in which it originated.

Art. 6. Would it not be better, and more in accordance with the sentiments of a majority of the brethren, to change our present manner of appointing the standing committee of our Annual Meeting, so that each district-meeting elect some one of the bishops within the district to constitute one of said committee? And would it not also be better to give the committee liberty, after it has elected its moderator, to elect its clerks and other officers from the body of the members present, rather than confine it in its choice to its own members? Answer: We think it would be better so to do.

Art. 7. In choosing a brother to the ministry, would it not be nearer to the spirit of the gospel to cast lots for one among those having received votes, than the way we have been proceeding heretofore? Answer: We judge it best to make no change at present in electing our church officers.

Art. 8. Is it in accordance with the gospel to restrict a brother from preaching that which a branch of the body is permitted to preach and practice, and which is represented at the Annual Meeting from year to year, and is acknowledged as being in full fellowship with the church? Answer: In restricting a brother in his liberty of preaching the gospel, we must not be governed by what any branch of the church may preach or practice, but we must be governed by what a brother preaches, and by the manner in which he preaches. The apostolic precept, "Let all things be done unto edification," is a rule to be observed in preaching as in every thing else.

Art. 9. When ministers of other denominations join the brethren, can they be received as ministers in any other way but in the regular order of the church? Answer: We deem it not prudent to receive them in any other way.

Art. 10. Inasmuch as the questions whether the same member that washes feet should not also wipe, came up again at our district-meeting, we request the Annual Meeting, and the brotherhood throughout, to take this subject

into serious consideration. Answer: We think it well to comply with the foregoing request, and also to appoint a committee to visit those churches in which to practice the ordinance of feet-washing differently to the general order of the brotherhood.

Art. 11. Inasmuch as in some of the churches, or districts, the visiting brethren (deacons) are permitted to rise up in meeting to exhort, and even to preach, while in other churches, or districts, they are taught not to rise, but to bear testimony to the truth and to exhort while sitting, and are not allowed to rise for that purpose. As the Yearly Meeting of 1835 has defined the duties in Art. 4, it is agreed to refer this subject to the Annual Council for reconsideration. Answer: We think it best to make no change from the present order.

Art. 12. What is to be done with a person who makes application to come into the church, confessing that he has truly repented, received faith in Christ, and upon that faith has been baptized by a trine immersion for the remission of his sins by another denomination? Answer: We think it best to make no change in reference to the subject alluded to in the article, from the present order of the brethren. (See Minutes of 1848, Art. 5.)

Art. 13. Would it not promote the profit and edification of the annual visit to the members of the churches to have a season of devotion, consisting of prayer and such other exercises as those who make the visit may feel at liberty to perform, in each family, when the circumstances will admit of it? Answer: We think it would promote the edification of the members of the church to do so, and that when convenient it ought to be done.

Art. 14. As the Annual Meeting has given the liberty to hold Sabbath-schools, it is particularly requested that this Annual Meeting give a full and definite answer to the last question in Art. 1, minutes of 1862, that there may be a uniformity of practice among the brethren who hold, or

who wish to hold, Sabbath-schools. Answer: We advise that, where the nature of the case will admit of it, for brethren to hold Sabbath-schools, and such schools should be opened by singing and prayer, and closed by singing or by prayer, as it may be thought proper, and they should be superintended by brethren. And we advise the brethren to be very careful in introducing books, to introduce none that inculcate doctrines contrary to the gospel. And we further advise that brethren avoid taking part in or encouraging the Sabbath-school celebrations, common in the world.

Art. 15. Can there not be a more scriptural answer on the article of going on stands to preach, than that passed in our Annual Meeting in 1866, Art. 23? Answer: We can give no better answer to it than that already given in the minutes of 1866, Art. 23.

Art. 16. How is it considered for brethren to open their doors, or give consent that fallen teachers should preach in their houses, or to attend their meetings, etc.? Answer: We consider it wrong to open our houses for such to preach in, to attend their meetings, or to do any thing whatever to encourage them to preach.

Art. 17. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that brethren may engage in merchandizing, with no other restriction than that they are not to sell intoxicating liquors should any other restrictions be added, and if so, what are they? Answer: We think it best to refer this question back to the district-meeting from which it came.

Art. 18. Whereas, there is a difficulty in introducing the new hymn-book among the brethren where the German language is yet used, as there are none that contain both English and German hymns, would it not therefore be advisable to revise the German hymn-book, and make a small collection of the choicest German hymns, and combine them with the English book, and thus have some books containing both English and German hymns, to

meet the wants of our German members and avoid the necessity of having more than one book in the church? Answer: We consider it advisable to do so, and appoint the following brethren as a committee to select a number of German hymns, not exceeding two hundred, to be added to as many of the English books as it is necessary to supply the wants of the German brethren: Paul Wetzel, Henry Kurtz, F. P. Loehr, and D. M. Holsinger.

Art. 19. As there are some members who do not heed to the admonition given by the Annual Meeting of 1866, Art. 27, will this meeting come to some plan that all the churches will carry out said admonition? Answer: Considered the duty of each church to heed the instructions of the Annual Meeting, in any one or all of the different cases therein named.

Art. 20. Will this meeting consider the query of the Annual Meeting of 1866, Art. 47, allowing brethren three certain modes of wearing their hair? And, if approved of, we wish this meeting to give gospel for the same. Answer: Considered, that in absence of direct Scripture, it is well for the younger to be subject to the older.

Art. 21. Our Annual Meeting has, on different occasions, decided in favor of adopting some plan for a more extensive spread of the gospel; we, therefore, request this meeting to adopt the plan of the Annual Meeting of 1858, Art. 58, or some other one. Answer: This meeting adopts the report presented to the Annual Meeting of 1860. The following is the report referred to: "The committee appointed at the Annual Meeting in 1859, Art. 28, to propose some plan to the present meeting, by which the brotherhood in general may take some part in the good work of the Lord, in preaching the gospel more generally, reports as follows: Whereas, the preaching of the gospel to every creature is a command of Christ, since he said to his disciples, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark xvi. 15), and, therefore, a duty enjoined upon all his

disciples, hence it needs no argument in its defense. The only point to be considered, is: How shall it be done? Now, St. Paul says: 'Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?' (I. Cor. IX. 7); and as the Lord Jesus gave every man his work, as well as his servants authority (Mark XIII. 34): 'For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work,' it is, therefore, evident that he did not mean that his ministering servants should be burdened with the duty of preaching his word, and also bearing the expenses incurred in traveling from place to place, while all the members of the body remain idle. The committee understands the Lord Jesus to mean that the church, his body on earth (I. Cor. XII. 27), shall, unitedly, preach his gospel in all the world, by the ministry, through the Holy Ghost; and, therefore, the church should pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers; for so Jesus commanded his disciples, saying: 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.' Matt. IX. 37, 38. And it appears from the following account, in Acts XIII. 2, 3, that this was the practice of the apostolic church: 'As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.' And, in view of the above considerations, the committee offers the following advice: That the churches of the brotherhood form themselves into districts, the brethren in those districts to meet, as often as they may judge it necessary, to transact their business; that each of said districts have its treasury, and each one of the churches which form said districts have its treasury, the former to be supplied out of the latter, and the latter to be supplied by weekly contributions, as directed by the Apostle Paul (I. Cor. XVI. 2), 'Upon the first day of the week,

let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come,' a plan for raising pecuniary funds, of divine appointment, and is one which commends itself to our acceptance, both from its authority and excellency. And in order that the funds collected may be the most judiciously, satisfactorily, and economically applied, we advise that each sub-district or church appoint at least one delegate to attend the general district-meetings, and that these meetings so dispose of the funds collected as they shall judge most conducive to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. And in order to preserve a proper harmony between all the congregations of the brotherhood, we further advise that each general district-meeting send a delegate to the Annual Meeting, and, by the delegate, a report of its proceedings, that all such proceedings may be in harmony with the regulations, as made by the brethren assembled in Annual Council, and subject to the inspection and control of that body. And in case any demands of a general character for evangelists are made, sufficiently so to require the action of the Annual Meeting, then, in that case, the funds needed to defray the expenses of said evangelists shall be drawn from the treasuries of the several districts. And, as the conviction of mind seems to be general among the brethren, that greater exertion should be made by the brotherhood to have the gospel preached in every place, the committee would remind the ministry that the foregoing plan is by no means designed to supersede the labors of our ministers in their individual capacities. But we recommend to all our preachers to labor as they have been accustomed to do, without money and without price, as far as their circumstances will permit them to do so, showing, as they have hitherto done in a remarkable degree, the Christian grace of self-denial—a grace which shone brightly in the life of our divine Master, and which occupies a prominent place in his teaching. We further recommend to all our preach-

ers to submit the above plan to their congregations, hoping that it will meet with their acceptance. All of which is respectfully submitted by the committee: D. P. Sayler, John Kline, John Metzger, James Quinter."

Art. 22. Is it in accordance with the order of the brethren for the standing committee of the Annual Meeting to appoint elders to preside over a district, without the knowledge or consent of said district? Answer: We think the standing committee has a right, under certain circumstances, to do so.

Art. 23. Is it consistent with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for our ministers to teach, at our love-feasts, that members are justifiable in absenting themselves from the communion, after they have had their feet washed and partaken of the Lord's Supper? If this is not right, what should be done with members who will do so without giving any reason? Answer: It is wrong to do as intimated above, and more wrong still to teach it, and it should be neither taught nor done.

Art. 24. Would it not be more in accordance with the example of Christ and his disciples, when the administrator is blessing the bread and wine in the communion, for all the members to keep their seats? Answer: Inasmuch as it is not said that Christ did not rise to his feet, and as it has been the order of the brethren to rise when we give thanks, we think it best to make no change.

Art. 25. Shall district-meetings be held openly before the world, or before the church only? Answer: We think it best to hold our district-meetings as private meetings, but not so much so as to exclude any persons friendly to the brethren.

Art. 26. Can brethren, who do not possess the qualifications for deacons, required by the Apostle Paul to Timothy (I. Tim. III.), hold that office? Answer: We think they can not.

The following committees were appointed by the standing committee: 1. For Marshall County, Indiana, Yellow River Church, Jacob Miller, of Portage, Jacob Berkey, and David Bechtelheimer. 2. For Tippecanoe Church, Indiana, Abraham Airbaugh, David Miller, Jacob Miller, Jacob Flory, Jacob Berkey, and F. P. Loehr. 3. The same committee will go to Eel River congregation, Indiana. 4. For Cedar Creek congregation, DeKalb County, Indiana, Daniel Brower, Allen County, Ohio, Jacob Wagner, Joseph McCarty, and John Brown. 5. For Macoupin County, Illinois, John Metzger, Christian Long, Henry Davy, Joseph Hendricks, and Samuel Lehman. 6. For Marshall County, Iowa, John Wise, Samuel Gerber, George Baker, and Elias K. Beeghly. 7. For Philadelphia and Germantown, D. P. Sayler, H. D. Davy, James Quinter, Daniel Thomas, and Moses Miller. 8. For Salamony Church, Indiana, H. D. Davy, Daniel Brower, John P. Ebersole, John Metzger, and Jacob Berkey. 9. A committee to Somerset County, Pennsylvania, Tobias Blouch, Abraham Stutzman, and D. M. Holsinger. 10. A committee to the Rock Run and Elkhart churches, Indiana, H. D. Davy, Daniel Miller, J. P. Ebersole, John Metzger, and Michael Shotz. 11. To the Newton Church, Miami County, Ohio, Nathan Heywood, George Holler, Joseph Resor, and Isaac Miller. 12. To Pine Creek Church, Indiana, Jacob Berkey, Christ. Wenger, Ab. Witmer, and Jacob Miller. 13. To Waddam's Grove, Illinois, Michael Sisler, Martin Meyers, and David E. Price.

There were two requests for the Annual Meeting, one from Virginia, for the meeting in 1869, and one from Iowa, in 1870. The request from Virginia, for the meeting in 1869, was granted, and the next Annual Meeting, the Lord willing, will be held in Virginia. The corresponding brethren in the congregation in which it will be held, and other

desirable information, will be given in due time through our periodicals.

After exhortation, singing, and prayer, the meeting adjourned.

JAMES QUINTER, }
D. P. SAYLER, } Clerks.

H. D. DAVY, Moderator.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1869.

A considerable number of brethren assembled in the neighborhood in which the general council-meeting was to be held some days before the time for meeting. The brethren around in various places availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them for preaching, and quite a number of meetings were held, to the edification of the brethren, and, also, it is hoped, to the good of others.

On Tuesday morning the meeting was organized, and opened with devotional exercises, after which it proceeded to business.

The following subjects were presented to the meeting, and acted upon in the fear of the Lord, with the conclusions herein stated:

ARTICLE 1. Whereas, there have been certain petitions from southern Ohio presented to this Annual Meeting, and which have been extensively circulated through the brotherhood, wherein the petitioners have set forth certain grievances, and desire some change or modification in holding the Annual Meeting, and, also, in certain practices among the brethren; and, whereas, this Annual Meeting desires to maintain all the practices and ordinances of Christianity in their simplicity and purity, and to promote the "unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace;" therefore, though it can not grant the changes and objects desired by the peti-

tioners to the full extent petitioned for, it will make the following changes in the manner of holding the Annual Meeting, and endeavor to guard, with increased vigilance, against the abuse of the practices referred to in the supplement, by advising and urging the brethren to observe the cautions and directions in reference to said practices, as hereinafter stated: 1. In relation to the appointing of the standing committee, we advise that the district-meetings select old, experienced, and established brethren; and that in signing the minutes we advise that a suitable number of elders sign them, but not as members of the standing committee, and the signers need not be confined to the committee. We also advise that the minutes be read to all at the close of the meeting, provided there is time, and it be found practicable to do so, and that the term "moderator," as applied to the brother who keeps order, be dropped. 2. In relation to holding protracted meetings for worship, we feel much impressed with the propriety of conducting said meetings in strict accordance with the gospel; that all disorder and improper excitement should be avoided; that care should be taken that the understanding be enlightened, as well as the passions awakened; that on all occasions, when candidates for church membership are visited and examined, they be dealt with as the gospel seems to require, and as the order of the brethren has sanctioned; that in noticing the success of preaching, we advise that the number of additions to the churches be omitted. 3. In relation to Sabbath-schools, we feel the great necessity of guarding against the prevailing manner in which these schools are conducted; of cautioning the brethren who take any part in them against having festivals, or any thing of the kind that does not comport with the spirit of Christianity, which such schools are designed to promote; that care be taken lest pride be taught rather than humility, and that nothing be encouraged thereby that will conflict with the established order and character of the brethren·

and that care should be taken that no offense be given to the brethren in these things. 4. In reference to the controversial articles published in our religious papers, we counsel and advise our brethren Quinter & Kurtz, and H. R. Holsinger, to publish nothing in their periodicals that disputes the practice of the precepts and ordinances of the gospel, as handed down to us from Christ and the apostles, through and by the forefathers of the church; and that Brethren Nead, Kinsey, and all the brethren who write, be cautioned upon this head, and are hereby given to understand that a disregard to this counsel will subject a brother to the counsel of the church. 5. In reference to prayer-meetings, social meetings, and Bible classes, we would say, that we advise the brethren to be very careful in conducting such meetings, when they have been introduced, and to conduct them not after the prevailing custom of the religious world, but in the order that the brethren conduct their meetings for worship; that brethren be cautioned against introducing such meetings where their introduction would cause confusion or trouble in the churches, and that elders always be consulted in introducing such meetings.

Art. 2. The committee appointed by the last Annual Meeting to visit the Philadelphia and Germantown churches, reported, and the following is the part of the report judged necessary to be entered upon the minutes, it being the result of the conference between the committee and said churches: "Whereas, the brethren of the Philadelphia and Germantown churches seem to feel assured that the practice of feet-washing in said churches has always been in the single mode, we find it necessary to bear with one another, and will do so, provided you restore the old order of the brethren, in having a full supper at communion meeting, the salutation of the kiss at the same time, and the practice of the two brethren praying at the commencement and close of our general meetings for worship, where there are

two brethren present, concluding each prayer with the Lord's Prayer. If you will agree to this, we will report to the Annual Meeting accordingly. This was the last proposition submitted by the committee to said churches, and was accepted, with the qualification, as far as practicable. We are happy to believe its acceptance will be a step toward a more complete union between the churches we met in conference and the general brotherhood. The foregoing report is respectfully submitted to the Annual Meeting, with the hope that it will take such action upon the subject as will further the blessed cause of truth and righteousness. Signed by the committee: D. P. Sayler, H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, B. F. Moomaw, M. Miller." This Annual Meeting accepts, for the present, the foregoing report, with the clause, "as far as practicable," stricken out.

Report of the brethren appointed by the Annual Meeting to visit the brethren in Adams and Hancock counties, Illinois: "Upon conferring with them, and investigating the subject of difference in the practice of feet-washing, we found that in presenting their papers to the Annual Meeting in 1859, they reserved the right to themselves of practicing feet-washing as they did before, and thereby the Annual Meeting got a wrong impression; and, furthermore, what confirmed that impression was this: they agreed in the paper above alluded to, to give and take counsel, and did not state to the Annual Meeting their reservation in the practice of feet-washing. We found, in our conference with them, that they are still willing to abide by the compromise made in 1856, and fellowship the brethren as it was then agreed upon by the Annual Meeting. And we further got an expression from them, that they have adopted, and will adopt, the minutes of the Annual Meeting in full, except in the practice of feet-washing. And, as we learned by investigation, that there was a misunderstanding between the parties, we laid down our power invested in us by the Annual Meeting to communicate, and

return our report to the Annual Meeting, that it may act as it sees fit in the premises. And we further have to say, that we were kindly met and received by the brethren and sisters in Adams and Hancock counties, and found a Christian spirit manifested in them while we were with them, and only feel sorry that we could not effect a union in the practice of feet-washing. Signed by the committee: H. D. Davy, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, Christian Long."

Whereas, there has been a misunderstanding between the brethren in Illinois, visited by the committee, and the Annual Meeting; and, whereas, said brethren have accepted of the decisions of the Annual Meeting, and conformed to the order of the church in every respect except in the order of feet-washing; and, whereas, the different modes of washing feet have been much agitated among the brethren for some time past, neither to the edification of the brethren, nor to the promotion of holiness in the church; and, whereas, this Annual Meeting has given counsel, which, it is hoped, will stop said agitation and let the subject rest; therefore, this Annual Meeting concludes to bear a little longer with said brethren, and see what the result will be. It also advises brethren, when organizing new churches, to organize them in the practice of the ordinances, according to the general order of the brethren.

Art. 3. Would it not be more in accordance with the Scriptures, and the example of the Savior, to dispense with the salutation of the kiss at feet-washing, and at the communion? Answer: We readopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1853, Art. 39.

Art. 4. What does this district think of the propriety of requiring brethren, who shall hereafter write and publish books, to submit them to a committee, appointed by the Yearly Meeting, for examination and approval, before they offer them to the public? Answer: We think it advisable for brethren to do so.

ART. 5. How is it considered by the brethren, for a brother to take the benefit of the bankrupt law? Answer: Considered not according to gospel. Matt. v. 40; Luke XVI. 9, 10.

ART. 6. As our fraternity disapproves of its members joining the Masonic order, and all secret societies, when a report is in circulation that some of the brethren belong to some such society, and the nature of the case being such that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain testimony to prove the charge, has the church, under such circumstances, a right to question the brethren charged relative to the truth of the report, and if it has a right to do so, and exercises that right, and the brethren refuse to answer, what shall the church do? Answer: Under the circumstances alluded to, we consider that the church has a right to question the brethren, to ascertain whether the report is true, and we think such brethren owe it in honor to themselves, and in justice to the church, to give a direct answer upon the subject, and failing to do so, they throw themselves liable to be dealt with as offending members.

ART. 7. Can a brother, consistently with the gospel, take the benefit of the law by getting up a petition to locate a ditch according to law, and thus compel others to ditch? Answer: We consider it most in accordance with the gospel, and the general principles of the brotherhood, not to use the law to compel men to do any thing.

ART. 8. Shall officers in the church, involved in difficulties, act in their office while involved in such difficulties, and when there are others holding the same office? Answer: we think the case should be first investigated before officers are prohibited from acting in their offices.

ART. 9. Should brethren be allowed to anoint the sick without first knowing of them whether they are at peace with all, as much as lieth in them; and if not, should it not be required of the sick, before anointing them, to confess their faults one to another, that they may be healed, and

whether they should not be fully resigned to the will of God whether to live or die? Answer: We consider the direction for anointing the sick, already given by our brethren, sufficient for ordinary occasions, but when any thing further is necessary, brethren called upon to anoint should act accordingly

Art. 10. Do the brethren consider it in accordance with the order of the brethren, and tenor of the gospel, for members of the church to take a drink of water from the table at love-feast, while the tables are being furnished for supper, or thanks are offered at our communion? Answer: Members should tarry one for another, according to Paul to the Corinthians. I. Cor. xi. 33.

Art. 11. Which would be the most consistent with the teachings of the gospel, to have the supper off or on the table at the time of washing feet? Answer: Inasmuch as the teaching of the gospel, in this respect, is differently understood by the brethren, we leave it with the churches to decide which course will give the most satisfaction and peace.

Art. 12. Shall we not determine, at this Annual Meeting, to make voting a test of fellowship? If not, then shall we not leave the whole matter to the decision of the brethren to do as they individually will, with all the discord and confusion we now have throughout the brotherhood? Answer: We conclude to readopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1866, Art. 1.

Art. 13. Would it not be well for all committees called to settle difficulties in churches to keep a record of their proceedings, signed by the committee, and also by competent members of the church in which said committee acted, for reference? Answer: We think they should keep a record, from the fact that so much misunderstanding occurs without it. A duplicate of the proceedings should also be left with the church, if it desires.

Art. 14. How is it to be considered when a brother is

conscientious in wearing his beard on his upper lip (a full beard), and when there are other brethren who are conscientious in not saluting such brethren? Answer: We consider that in all such cases as the foregoing, brethren should bear with one another.

Art. 15. Would it not be more in accordance with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, to have a more uniform practice in giving letters of recommendation to members moving from one arm of the church to another? Answer: We think it best to let the churches write certificates as will suit them, as this has heretofore been the practice of the brethren.

Art. 16. Inasmuch as there is great dissatisfaction as regards the decision of the Annual Meeting relating to insurance, in permitting brethren to insure property but not life, and thus permitting the rich who own real estate to insure, but not the poor, should not a poor man be permitted to insure his life as well as the rich his property? Answer: We defer this subject for the present.

Art. 17. As there seems to be a discord in the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1850, Art. 32, and the Annual Meeting of 1827, Art. 4, we wish to have them harmonized, if possible. Answer: We consider that no unbaptized person can be a member of the church, and therefore can not be anointed.

Art. 18. How is it considered if the majority of a congregation decide against the decisions of the Annual Council, can the bishops of said congregation act with the minority of said church, and the decision of the Annual Meeting? Answer: He can, as the Annual Meeting is of higher authority than any one church.

Art. 19. Could not the Annual Meeting, during its several sessions, arrange a little better for the accommodation of the delegates, sent from the different districts on business, by providing seats for them near the standing committee, it having been the case on former occasions that they

were crowded out to the remotest bounds of the assembly, to their great dissatisfaction. Answer: Considered that the committee of arrangements should provide a number of seats nearest to the standing committee, sufficient to seat all the delegates sent from districts.

Art. 20. Has an elder, or elders, a right to busy themselves with the affairs of another church, and take accusing queries concerning it to the Annual Meeting, against the bishops and elders thereof, and that secretly? If not right, what course should be pursued with those that would do so, to the very great dissatisfaction of the church? Answer: There may be cases where they have a right to look up the affairs of another church. But it is wrong to accuse elders of a particular church anywhere secretly; and if they do, they should be admonished to desist.

Art. 21. Whereas, it has been repeatedly decided, at our Yearly Meeting, that it is wrong for members of the church to have their likenesses taken, what then is to be done with members that have their likenesses taken? Answer: We consider it not right for members to have their likenesses taken, and if they have done so, they should be admonished to put them away.

Art. 22. What will this Annual Meeting do with regard to Art. 21 and its answer, of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1868? Answer: We readopt the answer to said article given by the Annual Meeting of 1868, and recommend the brethren to carry out the plan and give it a fair trial.

Art. 23. Should not the query and answer of Art. 35, of 1865, be repealed? said query relating to outside testimony? Answer: We think the decisions of former years go as far as we can go in taking outside testimony in trying members of the church.

Art. 24. Is it according to the gospel for brethren who are school teachers, whether lay members, ministers, or elders, at the expiration of their school, to have exhibi

tions, at which their scholars speak dialogues, and have two or three fiddles to keep up time, and have large crowds assembled together? And if it is wrong, can it be done? And if it is right, please give us Scripture for it, so that all may be satisfied. Answer: We consider such exhibitions very wrong, and think brethren should not encourage them.

Art. 25. Whereas, Bro. H. Kurtz has requested this Annual Meeting to give the committee getting out the German hymn-book liberty to add a few more hymns than were at first decided, this meeting thinks the book should contain no more hymns than were first agreed to. And as it has been ascertained by this meeting that the German members are very anxious to have the German hymn-book completed, it requests the committee to get the book out as soon as possible, and by the united wisdom of all the committee.

Art. 26. Request for committees: 1. A request from the Miami Church, Ohio. The request was granted, and the following brethren appointed: J. P. Ebersole, Daniel Brower, Joseph Kauffman, and Jacob Garver. 2. A committee for the Bush Creek Church, Maryland, was requested and granted, and the following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, John Wise, David Long, and Joseph F. Rohrer. 3. The following brethren were appointed as a committee to visit the Antioch Church, Indiana: H. D. Davy, David Bechtelheimer, Daniel Brower, Jacob Berkey, and J. Miller, of Portage. 4. The following brethren were appointed a committee to Fawn River Church, Indiana: Jacob Miller, of Portage, Jacob Berkey and Christian Wenger. 5. The following brethren were appointed a committee to visit the church in Bedford County, Pennsylvania: Grabill Myers, Jacob Price, and Moses Miller. 6. The following brethren form the committee to Tennessee to organize a church: Abraham Naff, David Derrick, and B. F. Moomaw. 7. The following brethren were ap-

pointed to visit the Price Creek Church, Ohio: Peter Nead, H. D. Davy, and Isaac Miller.

Art. 27. The request of the brethren of Black Hawk County, Iowa, for the Annual Meeting of 1870, was renewed, and it was decided, the Lord willing, to have the next Annual Meeting with the brethren in Black Hawk County, Iowa. Brethren E. K. Buechly and S. M. Miller were appointed corresponding secretaries. Their address is Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

The business before the council being disposed of, the meeting was closed with exhortation, singing, and prayer, as the brethren felt to praise God that he had favored them with his presence and help, and thereby enabled them to hold a very pleasant and successful Annual Council.

Standing committee and officers: Abraham Naff, John Wine, Peter Nead, John P. Ebersole, Henry D. Davy, Robert H. Miller, Jacob Flory, Jacob Berkey, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, David Brower, Elias K. Buechly, John Wise, Grabill Meyers, David Gerlach, Isaac Pfoutz, D. P. Sayler, David Long, Abraham Malsby, F. W. Dove, James Quinter.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1870.

As usual a large number of brethren and sisters assembled in the vicinity of the place of the general council-meeting before the time for beginning the council. Meetings for public preaching were held in a number of places.

On Tuesday morning, June 7th, the meeting was duly organized, and opened with devotional exercises, among which was the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The council then proceeded to business, and the following subjects were duly considered and passed by the meeting, as herein stated:

ARTICLE 1. Should not a full report of questions and answers passed by the Annual Meeting be given, instead of merely referring to former decisions? Answer: We think a full report of the answers should be put into the minutes, when they are not too long.

ART. 2. Is it considered right for a brother to take or receive a pension, back pay, or bounty, for services rendered to the government before he became a member of the church? Answer: We think he may be allowed to do so.

ART. 3. As there has been a petition presented to this Annual Meeting for a committee to go to California and Oregon to organize churches, and to set things in order, the meeting appointed Bro. Jacob Miller, of Portage, and Bro. D. Sturgis, of South Bend, Indiana, as the committee. It was also concluded to make provisions to defray the expenses of the committee, which it was supposed would be about three hundred dollars. Bro. Christian Wenger was appointed receiver to receive the funds collected. His address is South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana. To further the collection of said funds, the elders were recommended to lay the subject before their congregations.

ART. 4. We desire an answer to Art. 16 of last Annual Meeting. This article is as follows: Inasmuch as there is great dissatisfaction as regards the decision of the Annual Meeting, relating to insurance, in permitting brethren to insure property but not life, and thus permitting the rich who own real estate to insure, but not the poor, should not a poor man be permitted to insure his life as well as the rich his property? Considered, that we postpone this question.

ART. 5. Inasmuch as excommunicated persons do frequently, under the present system of our Annual Council, call for committees to reconsider their cases, and that most generally to the dissatisfaction of the church where such cases originated, will not this district-meeting petition our Annual Conference to consider this matter, and decide that

all such requests for a rehearing shall be made to the elders in adjoining districts; and as they have more or less knowledge of the case, let them consider the propriety of giving such persons a rehearing? This query being taken to the Annual Meeting for further consideration, received the following answer: Answer: This meeting judges it best to make no change from the present practice of the brotherhood in the subject referred to in the preceding query, but it thinks that the Annual Meeting should be very careful in appointing committees, and appoint none but what are absolutely required.

Art. 6. Whereas, there was a letter published in one of our periodicals soon after the last Annual Meeting, in which statements were made unfavorable to the integrity of the standing committee, and thereby involving, more or less, the character of the whole meeting, we therefore think that the correctness of the statements above referred to should be investigated, and consequently ask the next Annual Meeting to make such an investigation. The subject being considered, the Annual Meeting thought that an investigation was necessary, and appointed the following brethren a committee to investigate the subject: Solomon Garber, Jacob Wine, Peter Nininger, Moses Miller, and J. D. Trostle.

Art. 7. Whereas, S. Z. Sharp and H. R. Holsinger have drawn forth many expressions of censure, and have evidently greatly wounded the feelings of the members of the standing committee of last Annual Meeting, and also of very many members of the church, by the publication of certain reports that reflect very unfavorably upon the conduct of said committee; therefore, the brethren composing the western district of Maryland, in district-council assembled, do request the Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to investigate the facts of the case and determine what acknowledgments or satisfaction must be made to restore harmony and love again, and this to be attended to at the

Annual Meeting of 1870. The foregoing request was granted, and Samuel Garber, D. B. Sturgis, Jacob Miller, Daniel Wolf, and John Crist, were appointed a committee of investigation. In due time the following report of the committee was submitted to the meeting and adopted: We, the committee appointed by this Annual Meeting to investigate the cause of grievances set forth in Art. 7, after carefully investigating the matter, decide as follows: First: Bro. H. R. Holsinger assumed an unprecedented and unjustifiable course in employing a reporter without authority from the church. Second: In not regarding the counsel of the last Annual Meeting (Art. 1, clause fourth), in publishing S. Z. Sharp's letter, casting severe reflections on the standing committee, which Bro. H. R. Holsinger knew, or ought to have known, was a misrepresentation of the facts in the case proved to us. Third: In answering the defense of the standing committee, his criticism and language were unbecoming a brother. (See "Christian Family Companion," Vol. V, No. 45, pp. 696, 697, 698.) And we also find that the committee did no more than duty required of them in rejecting the reporter. It is also clearly proved to us that the committee offered Bro. H. R. Holsinger all the privileges he formerly enjoyed, to make his own report.

In consideration of the above, we require, in order to restore peace and harmony, that Bro. H. R. Holsinger acknowledge that he did wrong, and that he asks the forgiveness of the church. S. Garber, D. B. Sturgis, J. Miller, D. Wolf, J. Crist. After the reading of the report, Bro. H. R. Holsinger made an acknowledgment satisfactory to the meeting.

Art. 8. Is it the duty of the members of the church to take special care of their orphan children in getting homes for them among the brethren, and in having them raised up in the faith of the gospel? Answer: We think it is according to Eph. vi. 4.

Art. 9. Whereas, a number of the district-meetings have

sent to this Annual Meeting an expression unfavorable to a reporter making a full report of the proceedings of our Annual Meeting, therefore we resolve that no report by a reporter be made.

Art. 10. Is it according to the Scriptures, and the order of the brethren, for a brother who moves from one district of the church to another, and obtains his letter, to carry it for months and still refuse to give it up? And what is to be done in such a case, and which church is to consider it? Answer: We consider the answer to Art. 5, in the minutes of 1866, a sufficient answer to the above query.

Art. 11. Is it the duty of the church to support a widow after she is sixty years of age, having nephews who are able to support her? (See I. Tim. v. 16.) Answer: It is, provided the nephews have not the will or means to support her.

Art. 12. Would it not be prudent, since secret orders, such as Freemasons, Odd-Fellows, etc., are becoming more and more prevalent, to ask every applicant for baptism whether he belongs to any secret order? Answer: We consider it necessary and prudent to do so.

Art. 13. A sister was received into the church years ago by single immersion, but upon the agitation of the subject, the question arises, can she be retained as a member of the church? Answer: We consider that the gospel, and our consistency in regard to our practice of the gospel, require us to adhere strictly to our mode of immersion, as recognized in the minutes of our Annual Meeting. (See Minutes of 1841, Art. 5.)

Art. 14. Whereas, much dissatisfaction exists among the brethren, relative to the answer of the first article of the minutes of 1868, and the insertion of the answer of a district-meeting before the answer of the Annual Meeting, whereby many are unable to understand what the answer of the Annual Meeting to said query was, will the district-meeting agree to ask the Annual Meeting to define

plainly to the whole brotherhood, through the minutes of this year, how much of said article is the answer of the Annual Meeting, and authoritative? Answer, yes; for we very much desire a better understanding on that subject, and we therefore ask a reconsideration of Art. 1, of the minutes of 1868. Answer: We agree to reconsider said article, and leave out of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1868 the answer of the district of eastern Maryland, which reads as follows: "Considered, by this meeting, that the words in question do annul the marriage contract." And as a large proportion of the brotherhood understand that it only suspends, while others understand that it annuls the marriage contract, and viewing this difference of sentiment among us, and the majority believing that fornication only suspends the marriage contract, and as the tendency of the practice of the age is toward too great a looseness of the binding power of the marriage vow, we think it most advisable, for the present, to act in the church as if the marriage contract is only broken by death.

Art. 15. Is it in accordance with the spirit of the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for a brother voluntarily to inform the civil authorities against a man for selling liquors contrary to law? Answer: It is not.

Art. 16. A man goes to the army, and when he comes home his wife was married to another man, and she continues to be the second man's wife. Some time after he marries a widow, and they live together agreeably for some years. They both then make application to be received into the church by baptism, manifesting fruits of repentance to the satisfaction of the church, his first wife, in the meanwhile, still living in adultery. The church examines him concerning separation, and finds him innocent. Then examines the Scriptures, and the advice of the Annual Meeting of 1857, Art. 8; also, minutes of 1856, Art. 24, in the fear of the Lord, and in the presence of the applicants, and according to the best judgment the church receives

them. Can they be held as members of the church? Answer: They can not while they live together.

Art. 17. How is it considered, according to the gospel, if a man marries a wife, and afterward they part; then he marries a second woman, but puts her away because she is not an honest woman. Then he applies for a bill of divorce, and gets it. But he obtained no divorce from the first woman. Then, to satisfy the law, he marries his first wife, and he and his wife both make application to become members of the church; can they be received into the church? Answer: They can be received by giving satisfactory evidence of true repentance.

Art. 18. How is it considered for members to argue that the old order of the brethren, in wearing a plain garment, is the tradition of men, and say there is no scripture for such order? Answer: We consider it wrong for members to do so, and if they persist in such a course they should be admonished. (See I. Peter v. 5; I. John II. 16.)

Art. 19. How is it considered for members of the church to absent themselves from meeting, from time to time, without any good or lawful excuse? Answer: We consider it wrong for members to absent themselves from meeting, and should they do so for three or four times, they should be visited to ascertain the cause; and if no good cause can be given, they should be admonished. Heb. x. 24, 25.

Art. 20. Since the Annual Meeting has, at different times, decided against the excessive use of tobacco (See Minutes of 1864, Art. 19), but the object desired has not yet been realized, we therefore ask this district-meeting to suppress its use altogether, except for medical or mechanical purposes, and to deal with such as use it according to Matt. XVIII., as we consider it proper to deal with members for wearing fashionable garments. Minutes of 1863, Art. 3, and Minutes of 1866, Art. 27. The district-meeting favored the request, and sent it to the Annual Meeting. Answer: This Annual Meeting renews its disapprobation of

the use of tobacco, and especially at the time and in the place of divine worship, and believes it should be classed with other vain and useless things.

ART. 21. Inasmuch as both the district and Yearly Meeting have decided that it is inconsistent with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for a brother to preach who will not conform to the order of the church, shall not the church have the liberty to take his office from him, if he remains obstinate after being admonished? Answer: We think it shall, after being admonished again and again by the church.

ART. 22. How do the brethren at this meeting consider it, if sisters are not willing to wear a covering on their heads at time of worship, according to the order of the brethren, and what is to be done with a minister that contends that there is no covering necessary but the hair? Answer: We are to deal with such sisters mildly, but strictly. But such a minister should be admonished to withdraw such contentions, and if he does not adhere, he is to be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.

ART. 23. Is it right for brethren or sisters to have musical instruments in their houses, such as melodeons or organs? Answer: We think it not expedient to have them in our houses, when they cause offense, and we think, under such circumstances, every brother and sister that have them ought to be admonished, in love, to put them away, agreeably to Eph. v. 19; Col. III. 16; James v. 13.

ART. 24. What is the rule of the brethren, when a member is expelled, and removes into another or adjoining district, and after living in the other district some six or seven years, and then makes application for membership, which church shall then receive him with hand and kiss, after reconciliation is made with the church that expelled him? Answer: The church in which he lives at the time he is restored.

Art. 25. Does the Annual Meeting consider it wrong for the brethren to hold their Sunday-schools in their meeting-houses? Answer: We consider it not wrong, if such schools are conducted according to order, and by the consent of the church.

Art. 26. In relation to the anointing of Christ, as recorded in Matt. xxvi. 13, and presented by one of the district-meetings, we would say that the subject is worthy of our consideration and attention, but we do not think it best or necessary to give any direction as to time or place at which it should be preached; and because of its length we omit the query, as it came from the district-meeting.

Art. 27. Why is it that the brethren use leavened bread at their love-feasts? Had we not better take the example of Christ and the apostles, and use unleavened bread? Answer: We do not believe it right to keep the Jewish customs.

Art. 28. Will the brethren of this Annual Council take into consideration the importance of having the bread and wine on the table at supper, so as to harmonize with the gospel? Answer: We think it best to adopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1864, Art. 26, which reads as follows: "We think, in case of any change being desired in the established order, in any branch of the church, especially with regard to the communion, it would always be best and safest, for the preservation of love and union, to take no steps in any change of this kind, until the whole church is agreed, or the district-meeting is consulted."

Art. 29. Inasmuch as the district-meetings have no regular order for appointing delegates to the Annual Meeting, we offer the following method to the brotherhood: Let three official members constitute a committee for receiving the votes of the delegates from the several churches comprising the district-meetings. The above plan for appointing delegates to the Annual Meeting was submitted by the standing committee and accepted by the General Council.

ART. 30. In compliance with the requests made, the following committees were appointed: 1. To the Cold Water Church, Butler County, Iowa, David Brower, Henry Strickler, and Peter Forney. 2. To the Eel River and Washington churches, Indiana, Hiel Hamilton, Jacob Wagner, and Jacob Flory. 3. To the Rock River, West Branch, and Yellow Creek churches, Illinois, H. D. Davy, John Wise, and John Metzger. 4. To the Rush Creek Church, Ohio, H. D. Davy, James Quinter, John Wise, J. P. Ebersole, and Eli Stoner. 5. To the Georges Creek Church, Pennsylvania, H. D. Davy, John Wise, and C. G. Lint. 8. To the Snake Spring Valley Church, Pennsylvania, Joseph Hanawalt, John Gluck, Isaac Myers, Moses Miller, and J. Berkey.

ART. 31. The request from the eastern district of Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting of 1871, was granted, and, therefore, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren in the above-named district, in 1871, commencing on Tuesday after Pentecost. Christian Bomberger, Rothsville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and Samuel R. Zug, Mastersonville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, are the corresponding secretaries, with whom correspondence can be held. Further particulars, as to place, etc., will be given in due time.

It was resolved that Bro. John Buechly, of Illinois, be the agent for obtaining railroad privileges west of Pittsburgh and the Ohio River, and Bro. Christian Custer, of Philadelphia, for obtaining such privileges east of Pittsburgh.

The business before the meeting being disposed of in much harmony and love, after a short season of devotional exercises, in which the six hundred and eighty-fourth hymn was sung, a short exhortation given, and supplication and thanksgiving offered, the council closed, leaving, apparently, the lingering impression upon many minds that it was good to be together.

Standing committee and officers: J. Trostle, D. Long, D. Gerlach, I. Myers, John Wise, H. D. Davy, D. Brower, D. J. Peck, F. P. Loehr, P. Nininger, Jacob Wine, J. Quinter, Christ. Wenger, Jacob Metzger, Hiel Hamilton, E. Eby, M. Sisler, John Metzger, Jacob Hauger, G. R. Baker, A. Replogle, G. Witwer, Wm. Gish.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1871.

On Monday afternoon the standing committee met, and organized by the appointment of the necessary officers.

On Tuesday morning the meeting was opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, after which the business commenced.

Upon the reception of the papers from the delegates from the district committees, it was ascertained that the following subjects were designed to come before the General Council. They were accordingly considered and acted upon, as herein stated:

ARTICLE 1. What is to be done when a church needs a brother in the second degree of the ministry, but lacks confidence to advance the one that is oldest in office; yet, out of necessity, the church has tried twice to advance him, but was opposed each time by the majority of the members voting against him? Answer: The brother should be informed of the cause of such opposition, so that he may have an opportunity to remove it; and if he can remove the cause, then the church may, and should, advance him; but if the cause is not removed, then the church may advance the next one in office.

ART. 2. Inasmuch as the brethren, assembled in Annual Council in 1858, saw no inconsistency in deacons rising to their feet to exhort, and as some of the elders, when in-

stalling deacons, still charge them to keep their seat, would it be inconsistent, when thus charged, for them to rise to exhort? Answer: We think all deacons should have the privilege to rise when it becomes their duty to speak, and that elders, when installing deacons, should observe this decision.

Art. 3. Does the Annual Meeting of 1871 claim Salem College, of Bourbon, Indiana, to be under the auspices of our brotherhood? Answer: It does not regard it as a church school, or conducted by the general brotherhood, though it is under the auspices of members of the church, and is supported by those who patronize it, and not by donations of the church.

Art. 4. Will this district-meeting approve of the following amendment to the plan of holding Annual Meetings: Let the districts send one delegate to represent them on the standing committee, and each congregation send one representative, and these to compose the Annual Meeting, and all queries to be decided by that body alone? Answer: We think it best not to make the change asked for, at present.

Art. 5. Is it according to the gospel for a brother to swear his life against a brother? Answer: Not according to the gospel.

Art. 6. Whereas, the eastern district of Maryland has decided that our colored brother, Elias Fisher, be authorized to preach the gospel to the colored people, and since he was installed there have been exceptions taken to the manner of his promotion, will this Annual Meeting confirm the decision of the eastern district of Maryland? Answer: In relation to the above case, it appears, from what this Annual Meeting has learned, that there has been a failure on the part of the elders in the district to authorize Bro. Fisher to preach, and owing to said failure, a brother in the second degree installed him, by the laying on of hands. As this was a departure from the practice

of the church, we think it was very improper; and, while we recognize Bro. Fisher as a minister among us, we consider him only in the first degree, regarding the laying on of hands as conferring no official authority whatever.

Art. 7. Should not this district adopt measures to provide and supply ministerial aid for churches where there is no preacher? and also to fill calls, open missions, preach the gospel, and introduce the principles of the brethren in the many sections within said district, which they have not yet reached? Answer: This Annual Meeting approves of the suggestions in the above query, as it is very necessary that churches or bodies of brethren, in which there are no resident ministers, should be assisted; and inasmuch as there are many localities where the gospel, as preached and practiced by the brethren, is not known, we think the gospel should be taken into such places. As it regards the measures necessary to accomplish these objects, we think the district should adopt such measures as it judges best calculated to answer its purpose.

[Note.—This query came to the Annual Meeting without any answer. It was the duty of the standing committe to form an answer to it, and submit said answer to the General Council. The above answer was accordingly formed and submitted to the committee, and received the unanimous vote of the committee. But owing to the fact that it was not answered, it was deferred, when first introduced, and was afterward overlooked. It then occurred to the mind of the clerk that it had been overlooked, and he regretted it very much. Having an opportunity to do so, he mentioned the circumstances to several of the standing committee after the meeting closed, and they thought it might be put on the minutes. We accordingly insert it, not as having received the sanction of the General Council, but that of the standing committee.—Clerk.]

Art. 8. Will the district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting to reconsider and revoke Art. 27, of the minutes

of the Annual Meeting, passed A. D. 1856, relative to the holy kiss? Answer: This Annual Meeting thinks it best to make no change of Art. 27, of 1856.

Art. 9. Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to belong to the building and loan associations now organized in different parts of the country? Answer: We advise the brethren not to unite with such associations until they understand them properly, and are satisfied that uniting with them does not conflict with the gospel.

Art. 10. Is it the duty of the church to support a widowed sister over threescore years old, and who has nephews that are members of the church, and these nephews being able to support her? Answer: We agree to defer this subject to our next Annual Meeting.

Art. 11. Is it according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, in case a member wishes outside testimony to prove his position in a matter of difference between members in the church, to have said testimony qualified by an oath or affirmation? Answer: We consider it not according to the gospel for members to require outside evidence under oath or affirmation.

Art. 12. Does the gospel teach that the brethren are (by the gospel) to aid one another in case of loss; and if so, ought they not to establish their own insurance companies, and not insure in those of the world? Answer: We conclude to defer this question until our next Annual Meeting.

Art. 13. Would it not be in harmony with the Scriptures, and the councils of our brethren, when there is considerable difficulty in a church, and the cause of the Master suffers in consequence thereof, for the elders of the adjoining churches to visit said church and set things that are necessary in order? Answer: We consider it would be in harmony with the Scriptures, and the order of the brethren, to do so.

Art. 14. Is it considered right for a brother in the min-

istry to exercise his own judgment in reference to remaining in or moving out of the church in which he was chosen, or must he remain in said church or district until the brethren there see proper to let him go! Answer: We consider that it would be best for all ministering brethren, before leaving a church, to counsel it, and it should spare him if it can do so.

Art. 15. Would it not render more general satisfaction if churches which have difficulties to settle would, when they fail to settle them, call upon the elders in the adjoining churches to come to their assistance; and if, in case a committee be after that needed, let them apply to their annual district-meeting, instead of our General Conference, for said committee, and let it be selected from the churches which compose said district-meeting, saving much expenses, etc.? Answer: We think it best to make no change in regard to the authority for appointing committees to make a final settlement of difficulties.

Art. 16. When a brother has fallen into the judgment of the church, and it takes an action in his case to the dissatisfaction of the brother, and he wants a rehearing or an investigation of the church's proceedings, what is the proper course to be pursued to get a rehearing? Answer: The expelled member shall first apply, through the officers, to the church which acted on the case; if, however, the officers refuse to bring it before the church, the elders in the adjoining churches may call said church together to ascertain whether it will grant a rehearing to the expelled member. But, if the church refuses to grant a rehearing, then the said expelled member should obtain what names of the members in the church he can to a petition to the Annual Meeting for a committee to investigate the case.

Art. 17. Will not this Annual Meeting recall the privilege granted to establish Sunday-schools, especially where the church is not entirely unanimous? Answer: We do not recall the above privilege, but where the establishing

of Sunday-schools would cause trouble or division, brethren had better desist from introducing them.

Art. 18. Is it right for members of the church, even elders and deacons, to make dinners or feasts on Sundays, or on other days, spending much time in baking and cooking, and setting their tables with many luxuries, and then inviting other members, and such as are not members, to come and feast with them; and then, while eating, be engaged in vain conversation, such as jesting and joking, and perhaps eating to excess? Answer: We consider it utterly wrong for brethren to do so. (See Eph. v.; I. Peter iv.)

Art. 19. How is it considered for members of the church to attach themselves to the Washington Mutual Live Stock Insurance Company? Answer: We consider that brethren shoul not join any society by which they jeopardise their non-resistant principles.

Art. 20. Can the church hold a man and his wife, both members of the church, when the one will not live with the other under any circumstances whatever? Answer: We consider that the elders in the adjoining church shall investigate the case, and dispose of it according to its merits and the principles of the gospel. Being informed of the case that gave rise to the above query, we name John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, and Daniel Fry to attend to it.

Art. 21. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is not improper to secure a debt by mortgage (See Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1825, Art. 2), would it be proper for a brother to close such mortgage when the debt is not paid according to contract? Answer: We have no objection for brethren to secure money by mortgage, but we can not advise brethren to close a mortgage by a process of law.

Art. 22. We desire an explanation, with an answer, on the words "again and again," used in answer to Art. 27, of the Annual Meeting of 1866, as the word or words, "again

and again," is or are not scriptural language. Hence, how often must an offending member be admonished to be admonished again and again, before an action can be taken against it? Answer: We still feel, as the brethren have always felt, that it is difficult to lay down a definite rule to apply to all cases concerning the subject alluded to in the query. We think that the wisdom of the churches should dictate the proper method of treating such cases. Where the general conduct of members is such as becomes the gospel of Christ, and there seems to be no inclination to follow the fashions of the world, and their apparel is modest and not gay, forbearance should be exercised toward such members, hoping they will in time adopt the plain garment, as this is considered one of the peculiarities of our fraternity, and in accordance with the Christian grace of simplicity taught in the gospel. In cases, however, where members, instead of conforming to the order of the brethren in plainness of dress, conform to and follow the fashions of the world, such should be dealt with more rigorously; and, if after several admonitions, there seems to be no improvement, they should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII.; and in dealing with such cases, both the salvation of souls and the purity of the church should be kept in view.

ART. 23. If a speaker's or visiting brother's wife dies, and he marries a woman that is not a member of the church, can he still officiate in his office? A scriptural decision is requested. Answer: We think he can; for where there is no law, there is no transgression.

ART. 24. Whereas, it is generally understood by the brethren, that members of the church are not permitted to attend places of merriment, such as state and county fairs, celebrations, circus shows, mass-meetings, and political conventions, etc., and as we can not find any thing in the minutes on the subject, a decision from the Annual Meeting is desired. Answer: We consider that the answer given by

the Annual Meeting of 1859, Art. 14, covers and applies to all the cases referred to in the query. The answer to Art. 14, in the minutes of 1859, reads as follows: "Such brethren should be admonished not to attend such places; and if they still persist in doing so, they should be dealt with according to Matt. XVIII."

ART. 25. Will this Annual Meeting permit brethren and sisters to attend animal shows? Answer: This Annual Meeting can give no such permit.

ART. 26. Is there not some way of bringing members to an account, who speak disrespectfully of and disregard the counsels of the Annual Meeting, and district and sub-district-meetings? Answer: Such members should be admonished, and if they will not hear, they should be dealt with as transgressors. (See, also, Minutes of 1866, and a paragraph under the heading, "The Organization of the Annual Meeting.")

ART. 27. Is it advisable for a brother to serve as manager or teacher of a college or high school, as the tendency thereof is to lead many of the brethren from the simplicity that is in Christ, and also to divide the brotherhood? Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has admitted the propriety of a high school, as a private enterprise (See Art. 51, 1868), we can not prohibit a brother from engaging in teaching in such an institution; and as it regards the fears that many entertain of the tendency of such an institution to lead brethren from the simplicity of the church, this will depend upon the character of the institution. And to guard the Salem College against any such tendency, this Annual Meeting advises the elders of the church district, in which the college is located, to take into its charge all the teachers and scholars of said college, who are members of the church, and require of them to conform to the general order of the brotherhood.

ART. 28. Would it not be better to dispense with the district-meetings entirely, and go back to the plan of 1848,

for holding the Annual Meeting? Answer: We think it best not to make the change asked for.

Art. 29. Will not the Annual Meeting make it binding on all the churches to furnish all members, moving from one place to another, with letters of recommendation, or a reason why not when asked? Answer: The churches shall give recommendations, or a lawful reason why not.

Art. 30. Inasmuch as the brethren are misrepresented and abused by enemies, saying the Brethren's Encyclopedia is our discipline, kept secret by a few leading brethren, would it not be better to advise the publisher to have no more bound? Answer: We do not recognize the Brethren's Encyclopedia to be a discipline of the church, but we consider the reasons given in the query insufficient for making any change in regard to publishing it.

Art. 31. Would it not be best to allow all brethren in the second degree of the ministry to represent the churches in Annual Meeting, and sit on the standing committee, if sent by the district-meeting? Answer: We think it best to make no change.

Art. 32. In order to avoid imposition on the churches, should not all the members of the church, and especially traveling preachers, be furnished with a certificate, properly signed, showing their standing in the church? Answer: We consider it advisable that members of the church, under the circumstances alluded to, should be supplied with certificates.

Art. 33. What course should be taken to bring into order an individual arm of the church, which is much out of order in regard to wearing of apparel, and implicated with the world in attending school exhibitions, and debates, so that their influence extends into neighboring churches, causing trouble there? Answer: We consider it the duty of the elders of the surrounding churches to take notice of such churches, and set them in order.

Art. 34. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting of 1870, Art.

12, has decided that applicants for baptism should be asked whether they belong to any secret order, and as our fraternity is opposed to all secret societies, would it not be well to adopt some plan by which the members may be interrogated yearly, before we hold our communion meetings, upon the subject of secret organizations? Answer: We consider it necessary to interrogate members upon the subject alluded to in the query, where there is any reason to believe they belong to secret societies, but any thing further we think unnecessary.

Art. 35. According to Art. 14, in minutes of 1869, can the church tolerate a brother who assails the Annual Meeting by writing against its decisions in the periodicals of the brotherhood? Answer: We think it is wrong for a brother to do so, and any doing it should make satisfaction to the church.

Art. 36. Would it not be more consistent with the gospel for the brethren to adopt a definite name in writing letters of recommendations? Answer: We think it would be good to head all letters of recommendation as follows: "We, the German Baptist Brethren, send greeting."

Art. 37. Whereas, this Annual Meeting finds, to its great regret, that the subject of feet-washing, in its single and double mode, as the difference is called, has produced serious difficulties already among us, and threatens still greater difficulties in the future. Questions relating to this subject have come from different localities in the brotherhood and it has assumed such a degree of importance as to commend it to the serious and prayerful attention of the brotherhood. Under these considerations, with much prayerful reflection, the propriety has suggested itself to us of calling the elders of the brotherhood together to consider this matter, as the apostles and elders did to consider the case of circumcision. Acts xv. 6. We have therefore concluded to request all the ordained elders of the brotherhood to meet, in the fear of the Lord, and under a due sense of their re-

sponsibility, in solemn assembly, on Whit-Monday, 1872, at the place of our next Annual Meeting, to dispose of this subject as the peace and prosperity of the fraternity require.

In the meantime, no church should be organized under the single mode, neither should any church change from the double to the single mode. And in order to obtain all the information possible to present unto the council of elders above alluded to, we appoint the following brethren as a committee to ascertain, as far as possible, which was the first mode practiced by our brethren in America: D. P. Sayler, Jacob Reiner, and J. Quinter.

Art: 38. Calls for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit the West Branch Church, in Darke County, Ohio, to settle difficulties. This was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, James Quinter, Samuel Mohler. 2. A requst for a committee to visit the Pine Creek Church, Ogle County, Illinois, for the same purpose. This was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Samuel Lehman, Martin Myers, and Michael Sisler. 3. For a committee to the West Conestoga and Chiques Creek churches, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to settle difficulties. The following are the brethren appointed: Joseph R. Hanawalt, Samuel Lehman, Daniel Fry, John G. Gluck, John Metzger, and F. P. Loehr. 4. A request for a committee to visit the Sugar Creek Church, Allen County, Ohio. The following brethren were appointed: Abraham Airbaugh, Abraham Flory, John Brilhart, Noah Henricks, and Samuel Mohler. 5. A request for a committee to visit the Milmine Church, in Piatt County, Illinois, to settle difficulties in said church. The following brethren were appointed: J. R. Gish, George Gish, Daniel Nehr, and D. M. Holsinger. 6. A request from the Limestone Church, Washington County, Tennessee, to settle difficulties. The following brethren were appointed on the committee: Peter Crumpacker, Abraham Neff, and B. F. Moomaw. 7. For Elk-

hart Valley congregation, for the same purpose. Jacob Berkey, C. Wenger, Jacob Miller, of Portage, D. B. Stutsman, and A. Whitmore.

Art. 39. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from the brethren in northern Ohio for the Annual Meeting in 1872. 2. A request from the brethren in the Elklick Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting in 1873. 3. A request from northern Indiana for the Annual Meeting of 1874.

There being but one request for the Annual Meeting in 1872, and that from the brethren in northern Ohio, the meeting will be held, the Lord willing, at the usual time, with the brethren in that part of the brotherhood. Information in regard to the place at which it will be held, and other particulars, will be given in due time.

Bro. Christian Custer, of Philadelphia, was appointed to confer with the railroad companies in regard to obtaining half-fare privileges.

The meeting closed as it commenced, with devotional exercises; and after thanking the Lord for the pleasant season of Christian fellowship which many of his children enjoyed, and after commending ourselves to the protection of his providence and the word of his grace, the brethren and sisters separated with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow, produced by the reflections awakened by the occasion.

Standing committee and officers: John Zug, Moses Miller, John Wise, D. P. Sayler, David Long, Peter Crumpacker, Solomon Garber, Martin Cossner, David Derrick, F. W. Dove, D. J. Peck, J. P. Ebersole, H. D. Davy, J. Miller, Jacob Karns, George Hoover, D. Fry, John Metzger, John Harshey, Benjamin Beeghly, and James Quinter.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1872.

On Monday a large number of elders collected, according to previous arrangement, and conferred with one another upon the subject they met to consider.

On Tuesday morning the general council-meeting was opened in the ordinary manner, by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

In opening and examining the papers presented to the council, it was ascertained that the following subjects were sent to the meeting to be considered. Accordingly they were considered in the fear of the Lord, and decided as herein stated:

Article 1. Has the church a right to pass resolutions and decisions, and enforce them to the expulsion of members from the body, without thus saith the positive law of the Lord? Answer: The church shall not expel any member without gospel authority

Art. 2. A request to reconsider Art. 20, of Annual Meeting of 1870. There was a reconsideration of the article referred to, and the answer of 1870 was renewed, and ordered to be put on the present minutes. It is as follows: "This Annual Meeting renews its disapprobation of the use of tobacco, and especially at the time, and in the place, of divine worship, and believes it should be classed with other vain and useless things."

Art. 3. Are members justifiable in refusing to commune with bishops of other churches who tolerate pride in their churches, when the Annual Meeting makes it their duty to enforce plainness? Answer: Not until it is understood that the elders who are said to have tolerated the evil alluded to have been admonished and labored with, to get them in order.

Art. 4. Has the church the right to enforce her decisions

according to Matthew XVIII., in matters where the gospel is silent? Answer: There may be evils of sufficient magnitude to require a resort to the extreme of the course we are directed to pursue in Matt. XVIII., though those evils for which members are dealt with may not be specified in the gospel, but at the same time are clearly violations of the principles of the gospel

ART. 5. Is the gospel a perfect law to govern the church in all things necessary to salvation. Answer: It is

ART. 6. What is the ancient and established order of the brethren, when elders are called to labor in another arm of the church? Are they to be taken in the private council with the laboring brethren of that church, or not? Answer: They may be taken into the private council

ART. 7. Is it according to the order of the brethren in private council that there be a unanimous consent of the "official brethren" concerning any matter before it can come before the church? Answer: The official brethren should not bring a matter before the church, if they are divided, until they have called the assistance of bishops of adjoining districts.

ART. 8. Can the church tolerate a member in the body that is a member of the society or order called Grange or Patrons of Husbandry? Answer: No brother or sister should have any thing to do with such an order, it being a secret-bound, and from appearance, a political association; and members who have united with it, and persist in it, should be dealt with as transgressors. (See Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1870.)

ART. 9. Is it right, according to the gospel and rules of the brethren, for one arm of the church to delegate to another arm the power of restoring back to the church a member who had formerly been disowned by the arm first named above? Answer: It has the power, by sending the charge with the testimony, in connection with the testimony where the member resides.

Art. 10. Does this district understand the Annual Meeting to mean that we should dispose of our likenesses entirely when it advises us to put them away? (See Minutes of 1869, Art. 21.) Answer: This Annual Meeting understands the phrase "put them away" to mean to put them out of public sight.

Art. 11. What is to be done with a district of the church that tolerates its members in taking illegal interest for money loaned, after the Annual Meeting has decided again and again that it is wrong to do so? Answer: This Annual Meeting thinks that that church should be visited by the elders of the adjoining churches, to set in order the things that are wanting.

Art. 12. Is it according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for members of the church to teach instrumental music in public schools, or elsewhere? We desire the dear brethren, assembled in district-meeting, to give us an answer on this subject. Answer: Whereas, we know of no direct Scripture on the subject, we can only give our advice on the query. And as we believe instrumental music to be of the world, and not of the true church of God, we think members had better not engage in teaching it. But we submit our answer to the Annual Meeting. This Annual Meeting confirms this answer.

Art. 13. Whereas, the Annual Meeting of 1866, in organizing district-meetings, says: "The district-meetings shall endeavor to settle all questions of a local character; and, whereas, it is known that questions of such a character have been settled, according to truth and justice, by individual churches, aided by elders called by the church. Yet there are always some members who are dissatisfied, and appeal to the Annual Meeting for committees from abroad, at heavy expenses, etc., which are no more competent of deciding correctly than are the elders in the district in which the cases occur; therefore the district of eastern Maryland petitions the Annual Meeting to authorize the

several district-meetings to settle all questions and cases arising among them, not of a doctrinal character. The Annual Meeting postponed this question.

Art. 14. Will the Annual Meeting confirm or reject the answer formed by the standing committee to Art. 7, of the minutes of 1871? Answer: This Annual Meeting confirms said answer.

Art. 15. Can brethren in the ministry, who have fallen into the gross crimes mentioned by Paul in I. Cor. v., ever be restored to their office? And if they can, in what way shall it be done? Answer: We think they may, under some circumstances, and the church having to act should judge whether such circumstances exist. But we think it should be, by the unanimous consent of the church, and in the presence of at least three elders. But there are some cases so grievous that we can not receive them into their office.

Art. 16. Will not this meeting urge a change in holding our Annual Meeting, as the present system is very unsatisfactory? A reconsideration of Art. 4, of the last Annual Meeting, is desired. Answer: This Annual Meeting readopts the answer of Art. 4, 1871.

Art 17. The following resolution contains the decision of the meeting upon the subject of feet-washing: Make no change whatever in the mode and practice of feet-washing, and stop the farther agitation of the subject.

Art. 18. Whereas, both the new English hymn-book, and also the German, are not used in some few of the churches of our brotherhood; and, whereas, the use of the two books, the old and the new, causes at times considerable inconvenience, and for this and other reasons it is desirable that but one book should be used in our churches; and, whereas, the reason given by some brethren for not introducing the new book, is that the Annual Meeting has never given them its sanction; and, whereas, the English book had, before its publication, been presented to the

Annual Meeting for an expression of its judgment upon the character of the work, but for want of time no expression was given; and, whereas, the new books, both the English and the German, have now been before the brotherhood for some time, and have given general satisfaction; therefore, resolved, that this Annual Meeting give the new books its sanction, and liberty to all the members of the churches to use them.

Art. 19. Resolved, that the request of John Dennis and his brethren, of the State of Maine, in regard to a ministering brother being sent to them, to preach the gospel and make known to them the order of the brethren, should not be slighted, but prayerfully considered by the Annual Meeting, and measures adopted to carry the same into effect. Answer: We think the minutes of 1860 and 1868 give the church ample liberty to make arrangements to meet the case above alluded to; we therefore refer the subject to the district-meeting from which it came.

Art. 20. We desire the Annual Meeting to correct the minutes of last year, Art. 5, so as to read: "Is it right for a brother to swear his life against a man for any cause," instead of, "Swear his life against a brother." Answer: We adopt the correction.

Art. 21. Will this meeting allow brethren, and especially ministering brethren, to engage in the banking business? Answer: Not advisable for brethren to engage in such business. (See Matt. vi. 3.)

Art. 22. We desire the Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 3, of the minutes of 1844, and if the present answer may be adopted, then what shall be done with a brother who violates the decision? The query above alluded to, with the answer, are as follows: "Whether a brother may go to the legislative assembly, as a representative of the people, agreeably with the gospel? Considered, that though we look upon the higher powers of the world as being of God, for the protection of the pious, etc., and de-

sire to be thankful to God for the benefit we enjoy under our government, and feel it our duty to pray fervently and daily for the same, we can not see how a follower of the meek and lowly Savior can seek and accept an office of this kind consistently with the gospel he professeth. (See Matt. xx. 25–28; Mark x. 42–46; Luke xxii. 25; John xvii. 16, etc.") The query was reconsidered, and the following answer given by this meeting: Answer: We readopt the answer to the minutes alluded to, and consider that any brother who suffers himself to be elected to such office as that named, and to serve in it, can not be retained as a member of the church.

Art. 23. Which is the most in accordance with the gospel, and example of Jesus and his disciples, to close our love-feasts in the evening with singing or with prayer? Answer: This meeting thinks singing last is most in accordance with the gospel.

Art. 24. Requests for committees to visit churches, to settle difficulties, and which were granted: 1. A committee to the Shanesville Church, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, John P. Ebersole, Samuel Mohler, and Daniel Brower. 2. For the Donnel's Creek Church, Clarke County, Ohio, John Wise, John Metzger, Joseph Henricks, Hiel Hamilton, and R. H. Miller. 3. For the Beaver Dam Church, Frederick County, Maryland, Moses Miller, Daniel Keller, and Jacob Price. 4. For the Beaver Creek Church, Washington County, Maryland, D. P. Sayler, Jacob Price, and Joseph Rohrer. 5. For the Spring River Church, Jasper County, Missouri; also, for the Cedar Creek Church, Cedar County, Missouri, and perhaps for other churches, William Gish, Christian Holler, Isaac Harshey, John Harshey, and Enoch Eby. 6. For the Salem Church, Montgomery County, Ohio, Samuel Mohler, Isaac Miller, and Samuel Garber. 7. For the church on the north branch of the Wild Cat, Indiana, H. D. Davy, John Wise, and Joseph McCarty. 8. For the Chique's Creek Church, Lancaster

County, Pennsylvania, and the Indian Creek Church, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, D. P. Sayler, Joseph Hanawalt, J. G. Gluck, Daniel Keller, and Samuel Lehman. 9. For the Chippeway Church, Wayne County, Ohio, Joseph Rittenhouse, Jacob Garver, Conrod Kayler. 10. For the St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph County, Indiana; Bloomingdale Church, Michigan; Elkhart Valley Church, Indiana; Solomon's Creek Church, Indiana; Antioch Church, Indiana; and the Salamony Church, Indiana, D. P. Sayler, J. Wise, H. D. Davy, C. Long, B. F. Moomaw, J. Quinter, and Daniel Brower. 11. For Hurricane Church, Bond County, Illinois, Joseph Henricks, David Wolf, Daniel Nehr. 12. For the Silver Creek Church, Ogle County, Illinois, John Metzger, Enoch Eby, and Samuel Lehman. 13. For the Owl Creek Church, Knox County, Ohio, Samuel Mohler, James Quinter, David Long, A. Flory, and Daniel Brower. 14. For Fall Creek Church, Highland County, Ohio, H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, and J. Franec.

Art. 25. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. The Elk Lick congregation, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, renews its application for the Annual Meeting in 1873. 2. A request for the Annual Meeting in southern Illinois in 1874.

As there was but one request for the Annual Meeting in 1873, that from Somerset County, Pennsylvania, the Annual Meeting of 1873 will be held, the Lord willing, at the usual time, commencing on the first Tuesday after Whitsunday, with the brethren of the Elk Lick Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. All the needful information concerning the place, etc., will be given in due time.

The following brethren were appointed to correspond with the railroad companies, to obtain half-fare rates for going to the meeting: John Beeghly, of Illinois, G. Witwer, of Missouri, and Jesse Calvert, of Indiana, for the railroad west of Pittsburg; and H. R. Holsinger for the Pittsburg, Baltimore and Washington railroad.

After singing, exhortation, and prayer, the meeting adjourned.

Standing committee and officers: H. D. Davy, Jacob Garver, John Brown, D. B. Sturgis, Jacob Metzger, R. H. Miller, Samuel Lehman, John Metzger, E. K. Beeghly, Christian Long, Daniel Zook, William Gish, Samuel Mohler, A. Malsbee, Ab. Naff, Solomon Garber, Martin Cosner, D. Long, D. P. Sayler, Jacob Riner, Jos. Hanawalt, J. Wise, and J. Quinter.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1873.

On Monday, June 2d, the standing committee met and organized, and prepared a considerable amount of business for the General Council.

On Tuesday morning the general council-meeting was opened in the ordinary manner by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

The following queries were presented by the delegates from the several districts, and were considered in the fear of the Lord, and were decided as herein stated:

ARTICLE 1. Is it consistent for brethren to have their lives insured? and how shall we proceed with those brethren who have their lives insured? Answer: It is inconsistent for brethren to do so.

ART. 2. What Scripture shall we name as an answer to the following question: How shall those officers among us be installed, whose duty it is to serve tables and to attend to the wants and necessities of the poor members? Answer: Inasmuch as it is not certain that the seven persons on whom hands were laid (Acts VI. 6) are to perform the precise work that our visiting brethren are to do, and if

they were not, then the manner of installation may differ, and the manner of installing our visiting brethren may be sought for in the general principles of the gospel, and not in any one passage, and so the answer of our brethren may be given.

Art. 3. Is it not sufficient, and according to the gospel, to ask the candidate for baptism, while in the water, the only question, Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? instead of using the words of the formula, found in the minutes of 1858, Art. 41? Answer: We think one question is not sufficient, and therefore make no change in our present practice.

Art. 4. Whereas, there is a difference of practice among the brethren, in proceeding with members who trespass in congregations in which they have not their membership, some trying the case in the congregation where the trespass was committed, while others would try it in the congregation where they live. Will not this meeting say where the offense shall be tried, and thereby establish a uniform practice in the brotherhood? Answer: The offender should be tried in the congregation in which the offense was committed.

Art. 5. Is it right to gather or boil sugar-water on the Sabbath or Lord's-day? Answer: It is not right to do so.

Art. 6. We request district-meetings and the Annual Meeting to decide that no report of the proceedings of our Annual Meetings, further than than the queries and answers thereto, be published. Answer: We decide that a synopsis of the reasons given as a basis for decision, may be given, but no names of speakers be used, and that the publishers shall be responsible to the Annual Meeting for their report

Art. 7. Whereas, the "Christian Family Companion" and "Pilgrim" have published articles with reference to decisions of questions of Annual Meetings, differing from the sentiment contained in said decisions; and, also, com-

munications from others, even from those who are not members of the church, and even from expelled members, reflecting seriously upon the character of the Annual Meeting; therefore, resolved, that the editors of said periodicals be required to make acknowledgment of their offense, and to promise to be more guarded in the future in this respect. The acknowledgment was made, and the promise given.

ART. 8. Whereas, Bro. H. R. Holsinger has committed great offense to the brethren at our present Annual Meeting by pursuing the course he has. When complaints had been presented from various places or districts in the brotherhood of the language he used in his paper, and when a humble and meek explanation was expected by the brethren, he, before the whole congregation, made assertions and insinuations which grieved the brethren more than his previous offenses, and to the dishonor of the brotherhood. 1. The spirit that he, as a minister of the gospel, manifested, we consider altogether contrary to the gospel, and the profession and character of our brotherhood. 2. He declared that a brother, and the connection in which he made the remark showed that it was a brother of some eminence, would suppress the printing of the Bible. With no testimony before him warranting him to make such a declaration, we consider the charge a dishonor to the brotherhood. 3. In speaking against a brother, in warm and strong language, and in alluding to the business that had been done in the morning, which business pertained to a point which had given the brethren much trouble, but which was apparently settled quite as satisfactorily as could have been expected, and when we felt pleasantly over it, he said, alluding especially to the elders, "They were asked to give the words of the Lord, and refused to do so." We consider this remark, in the connection in which it was used, injurious to the influence of the elders. 4. In saying that one of the brethren used sophistry in his speech,

we consider a great violation of Christian courtesy and brotherly love. 5. In declaring that he would never submit to a certain restraint that was under consideration, he plainly showed a spirit of disobedience and insubordination to the church. The offenses alluded to in the foregoing were by no means confined to the elders or standing committee, but they were very extensive in the congregation. The impropriety of the unchristian course pursued, grieved a large number of members, as their strong feelings, expressed after the meeting closed, plainly indicated. Now, in view of the foregoing considerations, we require a very humble acknowledgment of Bro. H. R. Holsinger, for his offenses, and an assurance that his course in the future shall be more respectful to the church and elders, and more in accordance with the meekness and brotherly love inculcated in the gospel. An acknowledgment was made, and the assurance given.

Art. 9. Is it according to the gospel, or is it conforming to the world, when brethren subscribe for railroad stock? Answer: We know of no direct Scripture forbidding it; but inasmuch as it brings us into associations in which we are liable to violate our Christian principles, we would advise brethren not to engage in it.

Art. 10. Is it according to the Scripture, and the order of the brotherhood, to have two or more housekeepers in the same church, at the same time? Answer: It is in accordance with the order of the brotherhood, and also in accordance with the spirit of the gospel. (See Titus I. 5; II. Tim. II. 2.

Art. 11. As the Annual Meeting has given the liberty to hold Sabbath-schools, if held according to the gospel, this district-meeting thinks the Annual Meeting should give the order for holding Sabbath-schools. Answer: This query is answered in, or designed to be answered in, the answer to Art. 14, of the minutes of 1868. And in addition to said answer, we would say that our Sabbath-schools

should be held, as all our meetings should be held, to the glory of God. (I. Cor. x. 31.) And as the object of our Sabbath-school is to teach children Christianity, Sabbath-school teachers should observe the directions given by Paul to parents, in which he admonishes us to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph. VI. 4.

ART. 12. This district-meeting requests the Annual Meeting of 1873 to reconsider Art. 15, of the minutes of 1868, touching the propriety of brethren going on stands to preach. Answer: Let this matter rest as it now is.

ART. 13. This district-meeting requests the Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 19, of the minutes of 1858, concerning the manner of advancing brethren in the ministry, from the first to the second degree. Answer: We consider the order given in Art. 19, of the minutes of 1858, the proper order.

ART. 14. When churches or individuals call for committees, shall the party calling for the committee pay the expenses of said committee, or shall the committee say which party shall pay the expenses? Answer: We think the committee shall say who shall pay the expenses.

ART. 15. Is it agreeable with the gospel, or the old order of the brethren, for members to have musical instruments in their houses, such as organs or a fiddle, for their amusement, or for the amusement of the young people, and to play on them on the Lord's-day, after they return from worship? Answer: We think it unauthorized by the gospel, and clearly opposed to the order of the old brethren, and the doctrine of self-denial, and not calculated to promote vital Christianity.

ART. 16. Will this district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting to grant the right to districts, at their meetings, to appoint, if necessary, committees to investigate and settle difficulties that may exist within the bounds of the district, and such selections to be made of brethren residing

within the limits of the district in which such difficulties may exist, except in cases in which a majority of the churches composing a district are involved? Answer: We think it best to make no change from our present practice in selecting committees.

Art. 17. Since the district-meeting of middle Indiana, last year, had under consideration the orphan's home, or a home for orphan children, and expressed itself favorable, but laid it over for further, consideration, will not this meeting take into consideration the propriety of erecting a home for orphan children, and members who are a church charge? Answer: This Annual Meeting does not see the propriety of adopting such measures at present, but if the middle district of Indiana desires to do so, we will not oppose it.

Art. 18. Is it right to put a brother into the office to serve as deacon or minister that does not conform to the order of the church, or allow them to serve in any church business at district or Yearly Meetings? And would it not be best for brethren that officiate where an election is going on to instruct the church not to give their voice to any that do not conform to the order of the church? Answer: We advise brethren to be very careful in giving the brethren power or office who will not conform to the order.

Art. 19. What is to be done in case one of the members of the church pleads guilty in the act of fornication, is it the duty of the housekeeper of said church to take the voice of every member present, whether such an one is only to be excommunicated, or put in avoidance, or is it the duty for such housekeeper to put such a member into avoidance at once, according to I. Cor. v? Answer: We consider that an elder has no right to either expel a member from the church, or to put him in avoidance, without the counsel of the church.

Art. 20. Do the brethren not think it proper to exert their influence against the admission into the church of the new hymn-book with notes? Answer: We advise all dis-

tricts of churches to keep them out of the church in public worship.

ART. 21. Inasmuch as ofttimes the innocent party must call for a committee and bear all expenses, would it not be more just for the committee to decide who is to pay the expenses? Answer: We think the committee is to decide.

ART. 22. A man who was living in adultery, after making a full statement of his standing to the brethren, was received into the church and afterward received a letter of full membership from said church and moved into another district of the church, and this church rejected him by the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1850, Art. 12; would it be according to gospel, and decisions of the Annual Meeting, for the brethren that received him into the church to make acknowledgment to the man also, or only to the church? Answer: We consider that the brethren who received him should make acknowledgment to the church, and also to the man, if he shall ask it, and give him a reason for receiving him.

ART. 23. Inasmuch as Art. 11, of 1872, is not heeded, will not the Annual Meeting devise some plan to have it enforced throughout the whole brotherhood? Answer: In case a church permits its members to take illegal interest in opposition to the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1872, Art. 11, the aggrieved members may apply to the Annual Meeting for a committee.

ART. 24. Inasmuch as there are constant additions to the church and to the ministry of young brethren who are desirous to learn the proceedings of our Annual Meetings, would it not be advisable to publish, in pamphlet form, all the minutes of Annual Meetings since the last date of those contained in the Encyclopedia, including also those not published in this Encyclopedia, previous to said date, and have said pamphlet arranged so as to admit subsequent minutes. Answer: We think it best to defer this question.

Art. 25. Is it right for the brethren to solemnize marriages in cases where parties are divorced and second parties yet living? Answer: No.

Art. 26. Inasmuch as there are differences of opinion among the brethren as to the nature of offenses that should be settled between the parties immediately concerned, or that may be brought directly to the church, it is desired that this meeting define this subject more clearly, so as to bring about more unanimity of opinion and action. Answer: All offenses that are strictly against a brother or sister should be settled according to Matt. xviii., but such as are of a general nature, affecting the whole body, said body must be concerned in settling of its own accounts. In case a brother neglects or refuses to go according to Matt. xviii., then the church should send brethren to investigate, and report to the church as directed in Matt. xviii.

Art. 27. Is it according to the gospel for council districts to select brethren from among their ministers and send them to preach the gospel in places where there are no ministering brethren, and where people desire the brethren to preach, and to pay the traveling expenses of such brethren? Answer: It is according to the gospel, and the decisions of the Annual Meeting? (See Minutes of 1868, Art. 21.)

Art. 28. Requests for committees to visit churches to settle difficulties, and which were granted: 1. Inasmuch as the elder of the Spring Creek Church, in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, called for assistance to settle difficulties in said church, we grant them the following committee: D. Gerlach, C. Bombarger, and Samuel Harley, of Ephrata. 2. A request from the Upper Deer Creek Church, Cass County, Indiana. The request was granted, and the following brethren were selected: Joseph McCarty, John E. Shively, and Gotleib Keller. 3. A request for a committee to go to Indian Creek Church, Montgomery County, Penn-

sylvania. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Moses Miller, D. P. Sayler, Daniel Keller, J. G. Glock, and Jacob Price. 4. A committee to Salamony and Antioch churches, Huntington County, Indiana, consisting of H. D. Davy, Daniel Brower, and John Wise. 5. A request for a committee to go to Astoria Church, Fulton County, Illinois. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, John Metzger, and E. Eby. 6. A request from the Yellow Creek Church, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Request granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Isaac Myers, Jacob Price, and J. G. Glock. 7. A request from the Black River congregation, Van Buren County, Michigan, for a committee. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Jacob Berkey, H. D. Davy, and D. B. Sturgis. 8. A request from the Waterloo Church to settle difficulties. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Henry Strickler, Peter Forney, A. Stamy, and Thomas Snyder.

Art. 29. The request for the Annual Meeting in southern Illinois, in 1874, was renewed and granted. Consequently, the next Annual Meeting, the Lord willing, will be held in Macoupin County, Illinois, at the house of Bro. Joseph Filbrun, on the railroad from Chicago to Springfield and St. Louis, and between Virden and Girard.

The following brethren were appointed to correspond with the railroad companies to obtain half-fare rates for going to the meeting: Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, D. P. Sayler; Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago, and Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad, H. D. Davy; Ohio & Mississippi, John Beeghly; Chesapeake & Ohio, J. S. Flory; Pennsylvania Central, H. R. Holsinger. Further information will be given in due time.

A resolution was passed, thanking the railroad compa-

nies that had granted excursion rates to persons attending the meeting. After singing, exhortation, and prayer, the meeting closed.

Standing committee and officers: Henry Garst, B. F. Moomaw, S. Garver, M. Cossner, D. P. Sayler, D. Long, David Gerlach, Jacob Price, John Wise, H. D. Davy, John Brillhart, Jacob Garver, D. B. Sturgis, John Baker, Joseph McCarty, E. Eby, John Metzger, Henry Strickler, R. Badger, C. Harader, and J. Quinter.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1874.

The standing committee met on Monday and organized. On Tuesday morning the meeting was opened in the usual manner, by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of Acts. The delegates then, from the different districts, as they were called, presented the queries committed to them, and they were considered in the fear of the Lord, and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. As Art. 6, of the Annual Meeting of 1873, allows only the publishing of a "synopsis of the reasons given as a basis for decision, but no names of speakers," will not this Annual Meeting allow the publishing of a full report of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, together with the names of the speakers? Answer: We make no change.

Art. 2. Inasmuch as the public mind is awakened on the subject of peace, both among nations and societies, should not the church at large take notice of "the signs of the times," and teach more earnestly at this time this cardinal doctrine of Christ and the church? Answer: We think the church should do so.

Art. 3. The eastern district of Maryland humbly asks the Annual Meeting to pass Art. 24, of the minutes of

1873, and appoint a committee to attend to said business. Answer: The request is granted.

Art. 4. A brother, holding the office of a deacon in the church, and is nominated for the office of county commissioner, and accepts of the nomination, the church then takes his office from him. Does the coming district and Annual Meetings decide and determine that the gospel also demands and requires that the church deprive the brother from the privilege of communing, or, in other words, of partaking of the emblems of the broken body of the Lord? If so, let the gospel authority be produced. Answer: The church is justified, according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, in prohibiting such a brother from the communion; and any brother who will contend publicly or privately, that it is not wrong for a Christian to hold the office of county commissioner should be admonished in love to do so no more, and if he does, the church should deal with him according to Matt. xviii. (See Romans xvi. 7, 18; II. Thess. iii. 14, 15; Matt. vi. 24; Brethren's Encyclopedia, page 23; Minutes of 1778 and 1779; and first page, Minutes of 1797; also page 110, Minutes of 1822, Art. 6; also Minutes of 1861, Art. 3.)

Art. 5. Since it is fashionable for the world to wear the mustache, the brethren are adopting it and claim for it liberty of conscience, saying that it is good for the eyes, are brethren compelled to salute such if they can not do it without doing violence to their conscience? Answer: Brethren should never wear a mustache only, or fashionable beard, according to the fashion of the world; and if they do, they will fall into the council of the church.

Art. 6. Inasmuch as the answer to Art. 21, of the minutes of 1872, in reference to brethren engaging in the banking business is considered indefinite, and as some take advantage of this circumstance and do engage in the business, will not this district-meeting request the Annual Meeting to reconsider said query, and give a more positive answer?

We agree to ask the Annual Meeting for a reconsideration of said query. Answer: We, according to the above request, are willing to reconsider the query alluded to; but we do not see our way clear to make any decision more positive than we have already made. But we would admonish brethren to be very careful in engaging in all kinds of business, and especially in business done by incorporated bodies, such as railroads and banking companies, since by so doing they may be brought into dangerous associations with ungodly men.

Art. 7. This district-meeting petitions the Annual Meeting to grant to district-meetings the privilege of sending to the Annual Meeting queries and petitions that may originate during their sessions. Answer: Considered best not to grant the right to do so.

Art. 8. Would it not be proper for the Annual Meeting to adopt a form, to be used by the elders installing a brother into the first and second degrees of the ministry, so that all ministers would be installed in office by a uniform charge, as is done in regard to installing deacons? Art. 4, in the minutes of 1835. Answer: The elder installing a brother into the first degree of the ministry, should give the following charge: "The duties of the brother elected, while in the first degree of the ministry, are not very onerous. The church authorizes him to exhort and to preach as an assistant to the elder and older ministers, as they may give him liberty to do. It is his duty, however, faithfully to attend the meetings of the church, and when liberty is given, to exhort or preach, and do it humbly, and willingly, and faithfully, as the Lord will afford him grace to do. But should it happen that none of the older ministering brethren should come to the regular appointment, then it will be his duty, and he is hereby authorized, to conduct the meeting according to the usual order of the brethren, to the best of his ability, and to announce the regular appointments; but he has no au-

thority to make or announce any appointments on his own or private account. In case, however, he is called to preach on a funeral occasion, he is at liberty, and is hereby authorized, to go and conduct the services according to the usual order of the brethren. And it is thought good that the elder and older ministering brethren should be liberal in giving him liberty to preach, and not always confine him to the closing services, or he may not soon learn how to be a 'workman approved of God, that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'" The brother's name should now be announced, and he should be called to come forward, and asked, before all, to promise to conform to the general order of the brotherhood in dress and all matters of non-conformity to the world, whether he accepts the position into which the church purposes to place him, and whether he will so submit himself; and if he answers in the affirmative, the brethren will receive him with the right hand of fellowship and kiss of charity, and the sisters with the right hand of fellowship only. And to advance a brother into the second degree of the ministry, the elder giving the charge, may say: "Dear brother [calling his name], the church having called you into the first degree of the ministry, and on trial has confidence in your fidelity and integrity, now proposes to advance you into the second degree, and thereby your labors will be increased and your duties will become more onerous, and will require a greater sacrifice on your part. The church now authorizes you to appoint meetings for preaching, according to the general order of the brethren, to administer the ordinance of baptism, and, in the absence of an elder, to take the counsel of the church on the admission of an applicant for baptism, to serve the communion in the absence of an elder, or at his or their request, if present, to solemnize the right of marriage according to the laws of the state and the usages of the church. In brief, to perform all the duties of an ordained elder, excepting you

have no authority to install officers in the church, neither by giving a charge, as I am now doing, nor by laying on hands in ordaining a brother into the full degree of the ministry. You have also no authority to preside in the council-meetings of the church in which official members of the church are to be dealt with. You have no authority to go into the acknowledged territory of any organized church to make appointments for preaching, unless called by the elder or council of said church. It is an assumption of authority for an ordained elder to do so. But let it be understood that while the church now invests you with these rights and privileges, she still holds you to the apostolical injunction: 'Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder; yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble' (I. Peter v. 5), and will hold you amenable to her councils; and if you manifest an arbitrary self-will and domineering spirit, the same authority which now gives you these privileges, will, if need requires it, suspend you, and take from you all the authority she now gives you." The brother should rise on his feet, and be asked to promise to conform to the general order of the brotherhood in dress and all matters of non-conformity to the world, and whether he accepts this position, and whether he will submit himself; and if he answers in the affirmative, the church should again receive him, as at first, with hand and kiss.

Art. 9. Is it wrong for brethren to organize a class for singing purposes, and have it taught in their meeting-houses, if it is done in good order? Answer: It is not wrong, if the church is willing.

Art. 10. Inasmuch as the brethren, when assembled in Annual Council in the year 1831, decided it not to be advisable for a brother to have his son educated in a college; "inasmuch, "they say, "as experience has taught us that such very seldom will come back afterward to the humble

ways of the Lord," what will this district-meeting and our Annual Meeting say when a combination of brethren are trying to get up a high school for the more thorough education of the brethren's children, and term it the "Brethren's School?" Answer: Referred to the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1858, Art. 51. But the brethren shall not call the school the "Brethren's School," or by any other name that would involve the general brotherhood.

Art. 11. Will the Annual Meeting state what relations are meant by "nearest relations," in the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1838, Art. 8? Answer: By "nearest relations," is meant father and mother, brother and sister, son and daughter, and husband or wife of the accused.

Art. 12. Would it not be better, and nearer the gospel and our profession, to have no stand and platform elevated at the place of holding our Annual Meeting, for the committee brethren and others of the meeting to sit and stand upon during the time of council? Answer: It is best to have no stand or platform in the Annual Council.

Art. 13. The district-meeting of the middle district of Iowa, does sincerely ask the Annual Meeting of 1874 to prayerfully consider the propriety of making a change in the manner of holding our Annual Meeting. Answer: We do not consider it necessary to make any further change from the plan adopted by the Annual Meeting of 1868, than what has been already made; but we are deeply impressed, from our experience with the present meeting, of the propriety of adhering strictly to the order established at the Annual Meeting above referred to, and we urge upon the churches holding the Annual Meeting, to hold it according to the order alluded to. And we want it further understood, that there shall be no provisions made for boarding at the meeting until Monday, the day before the commencement of the council.

Art. 14. Inasmuch as many brethren and sisters are aggrieved at the statements made by Bro. D. P. Sayler, in the

"Gospel Visitor," Vol. 22, No. 10, page 293, first column, commencing eighteen lines from the top, should he not make a public acknowledgment? Answer: As Bro. Sayler's views of the passage of Scripture, in relation to which the objectionable sentiments were advanced, was given as his individual sentiment, and not the sentiment of the brotherhood; and as the church has not expressed its view of the passage, we think it premature to ask him to make public satisfaction.

Art. 15. Will this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to decide that when a committee is sent by the Annual Meeting into any district to settle difficulties, and elders or other members are involved, more or less, in the trouble to be settled, and who live in adjoining or other districts, that it may have the right to call such into the district into which the committee is called, and there settle the difficulties of those called? Or, should the committee go into the district and there hear and decide the case, that a final settlement of the trouble may be effected? Answer: All committees may have the power asked for in the query, to call for such persons as are alluded to.

Art. 16. Inasmuch as the Savior says, "In secret have I said nothing," will the Annual Meeting decide that the churches may ask the applicant for baptism all the questions in the presence of the whole congregation? Answer: We think it best to make no general change from the order given in the minutes of 1848; neither do we think it necessary to make any change to meet the case of the question, since in the order of 1848, above alluded to, it is not said whether the questions shall be put publicly or privately, and so in particular cases it may be done publicly. But when there is no necessity of doing otherwise, let the questions, after the examination, be put to the candidate before the church alone, as is the general practice of the brotherhood.

ART. 17. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting is favorable to the holding of protracted meetings, what right have the bishops and householders of certain districts of churches to limit such meetings to a series not exceeding three in number? Answer: They have the right, if the meetings are not conducted in the order of the gospel and of the church.

ART. 18. Since the Macedonian call is heard from many places over the land, and as the gospel says, "go," and as the Annual Meeting of 1868 has formed a plan, will not this Annual Meeting of 1874 perfect the plan and carry it into effect? Answer: We can not see how we can make a more perfect plan than the one referred to in the query, but we request the churches having such calls to make arrangements to carry out said plan.

ART. 19. Will not this district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting of 1874 to reconsider Art. 4, of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1873? Answer: Yes, and have the answer to read as follows: "A member should be tried in the church where his membership is, except where a member commits an offense in his church and changes his membership before it is settled; he shall then go back to the church he left and be tried there." Confirmed by the Annual Meeting upon a reconsideration of the query.

ART. 20. If a church is dissatisfied with members that go to Sunday-school conventions, and pass a decision that members shall not go to such places, and if they do go, that they must make an acknowledgment for the same, can the church enforce such decision without the sanction of the Annual Meeting? Answer: We think it has the power.

ART. 21. As there is not a uniformity of practice among the brethren in reference to saluting our colored members, will not the brethren in Annual Council give us a decision that will enable us to be one in practice, and not be re-

specters of persons? Answer: We think it best to make no change in this matter.

Art. 22. Is it consistent with the gospel, or the order of the brethren, to join the farmer's club, and even act as officers in the same? Answer: Not consistent with the gospel to unite with any organized body of the world, and any member that will not abandon it, after being admonished so to do, shall be dealt with according to Matt. xviii.

Art. 23. Will this Annual Meeting purchase the tent now in use by the brotherhood in holding the present meeting? Answer: Considered not advisable to do so.

Art. 24. Would it be right to grant an expelled preacher, who violated the counsel of the church, and still goes on preaching, a committee, when all the members are opposed to a committee, and if the church would grant a committee, under existing circumstances, and such a preacher would be found guilty, would it be right for said brethren and sisters to pay the expenses? Answer: No, and such preacher shall be required to provide a sufficient amount to pay such expenses before a committee serve.

Art. 25. Whereas, the Annual Meeting of 1873, Art. 20, advises all the churches to keep the brethren's tune and hymn-book out of the churches in time of public worship, this district-council humbly asks the Annual Meeting of 1874 to reconsider the said query, and allow district churches, that wish to do so, to use them even in public worship. Answer: This Annual Meeting thinks it best, upon the reconsideration of said query, to let this subject remain as it was decided at the last Annual Meeting.

Art. 26. Inasmuch as the use of musical instruments among us has caused considerable trouble, and as decisions of Annual Meetings are differently construed, will this Annual Meeting, therefore, give us such a decision that will fully authorize the different branches of the church to keep them out of the brotherhood, and get those out that are already among us? Answer: The decision of the last

Annual Meeting upon the subject of musical instruments is readopted.

ART. 27. We desire the reconsideration of Art. 14, of the last Annual Meeting. The query was, whether the committee should not have the right to say who should pay the expenses of called committees, the one that called them, or the church in which the difficulty existed; and it was decided that the committee should have that authority. Answer: We reaffirm the decision of the Annual Meeting of last year in the reconsideration of said query.

Call for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit the White Oak Church, Brush Creek Church, Clear Creek Church, and Fall Creek Church, in Highland and Adams counties, Ohio. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, Samuel Mohler, J. Wise, R. H. Miller, and D. Brower. 2. Request for a committee to visit the Newton Church, in Miami County, Ohio. The following committee were appointed: R. H. Miller, J. Wise, D. Brower, Jos. N. Kauffman, and Daniel Bowman. 3. Request for a committee to visit the church in Botetourt County, Virginia. The following brethren were appointed: D. P. Sayler, H. D. Davy, D. Long, C. G. Lint, and M. Miller. 4. Request for a committee to visit the Washington Creek Church, Douglass County, Kansas. The following brethren were appointed: John Hershey, John Forney, and Jesse Studebaker. 5. Request for a committee to visit the Deer Creek Church, Indiana. The following brethren were appointed: R. H. Miller, Jesse Meyers, and Jacob Berkey. 6. Request for a committee to visit the North Manchester Church, Indiana. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, John Wise, D. Brower, and D. B. Sturgis. 7. The following brethren form the committee sent to California: H. D. Davy, D. P. Sayler, and B. F. Moomaw. 8. The following brethren form the committee to publish the minutes: H. D. Davy and J. Quinter. 9. Request for a committee to go to St.

Joseph County, Indiana. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, and J. Metzger. 10. Request for a committee to visit the Vermillion Church, in Livingston County, Illinois. The following brethren were appointed: Jos. Hendricks, Enoch Eby, and D. Fry. 11. Request for a committee to visit the Indian Creek Church, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, D. Long, D. Keller, D. Garlach, and C. G. Lint.

The following is the quota of each state district to defray the expenses of the committee to California: Tennessee, $15; Virginia, first district, $30, second district, $45, third district, $25; Maryland, eastern district, $30, western district, $30; Pennsylvania, eastern district, $40, middle district, $35, western district, $40; Ohio, northeastern district, $40, northwestern district, $30, southwestern district, $50; Indiana, northern district, $40, middle district, $40, southern district, $40; Illinois, northern district, $25; Iowa, northern district, $10, middle district, $10, southern district, $5; Missouri, northern district, $5, southern district, $10; Nebraska, $5; Kansas, $5; Michigan, $5. The collections in Pennsylvania and Maryland will be remitted to D. P. Sayler; those in Virginia and Tennessee to B. F. Moomaw; those in the western states to H. D. Davy. The money should be collected and remitted by the first of September

Request for the Annual Meeting: There being no request for the Annual Meeting in 1875, and there being a request from the Miami Valley Ohio, for the meeting in 1876, it is expected that the next Annual Meeting will be in the Miami Valley, Ohio. The announcement will be made in due time.

The meeting closed by singing and prayer, the impression prevailing that we had a pleasant meeting, and that the Lord was with us.

Standing committee and officers: Henry Swadley, B. F. Moomaw, Martin Costner, D. P. Sayler, D. Long, D. Garlach, J. Meyers, J. Quinter, Jacob Garver, J. P. Ebersole, H. D. Davy, J. Lichty, George Long, D. B. Sturgis, Jacob Flory, R. H. Miller, D. Rittenhouse, Rufus Gish, David Wolf, E. K. Beeghly, C. Long. C. Harader, G. Witwer, J. Hershey, Jesse Studebaker, Enoch Eby.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1875.

On Monday, May 17th, the standing committee met and organized, by appointing H. D. Davy moderator, J. Quinter writing clerk, Enoch Eby, reading clerk, and J. W. Brumbaugh, doorkeeper.

On Tuesday morning the public council was opened by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of Acts.

The following queries were then presented, and acted upon with results as stated:

ARTICLE 1. Should there not be some change made in the manner of holding our Annual Meetings? Answer: With regard to the expense of the meeting, we suggest, that as the rule with us is that the said meeting be held alternately east and west of the Ohio River, that, therefore, the expenses of the said Annual Meeting be defrayed by the respective divisions where held, upon some equitable mode, the congregation in which the meeting is held not to be required to contribute to said expense in money, the trouble incident to such a meeting to be considered their full portion of contribution.

The Annual Meeting, instead of adopting the above answer from the district-meeting, gave the following: We think it best to make no such change as asked for in the query at present.

Art. 2. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to make a pool in a meeting-house, for the purpose of baptizing? Answer: As we have no authority in the Scriptures for baptizing in the house, we consider it wrong to do so.

Art. 3. Is it considered according to the gospel for a church, at communion, to use the unfermented juice of grapes in place of wine? Answer: We think it may be left optional to a church to do so, if the members are agreed.

Art. 4. This congregation petitions the district-meeting to petition the Annual Meeting for an amendment to the plan of holding the Annual Meeting, and proposes the following plan: Let each district-meeting send one delegate to form the standing committee, and each church to have the privilege of sending one or two delegates as a home representation, and these, in connection with the standing committee, to form the official body for the transaction of all business presented to the meeting for action. Answer: We think it best not to make the proposed change.

Art. 5. Is it right for the standing committee to change the import of any query addressed to the Annual Meeting? Answer: It is not right to do so.

Art. 6. When members, who are dependent on the church, move from one state to another, expecting to be maintained by their children, and fail, which church's duty is it to maintain them? Answer: This meeting thinks it is the duty of the church from which they moved to maintain them.

Art. 7. Whereas, the Annual Meeting of 1874, as per Art. 8, gave the charges as given to ministers in the first and second degrees, will not this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to give, also, the charges and duties as given to ordained elders and deacons, and have the charges of 1874 reprinted with these, so that all the officers may have their duties set forth by the Annual Meeting, as understood by the church from the Scriptures? Answer: Deferred until the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 8. Inasmuch as there are queries before this meeting, both in favor of and against a full report of the proceedings of this meeting, and as there seems to be a difficulty in answering these questions with the unanimity desirable, we think it best to defer the subject until the next Annual Meeting.

ART. 9. Is it right for a brother to hold the office of postmaster? Answer: We know of no reason why he should not.

ART. 10. Should not the delegate accompanying the member of the standing committee from each district, be admitted in with the standing committee of the Annual Meeting, during the examination of the business from the district which he represents? Answer: We conclude to make no change at the present.

ART. 11. Are the delegates sent by the district-meeting to the Annual Meeting to represent the sentiments of the district which sends them, or have they the privilege to represent their own sentiments? Answer: They should represent the sentiments of their district.

ART. 12. Whereas, it is not considered to be according to the Scriptures to keep our poor in the county poor-house, is not the church under obligations to build a house to keep our poor in, providing the brethren petition the legislature to be exempt from paying our poor tax into the county treasury? Answer: We refer this back as a matter of purely local interest.

ART. 13. Will this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to adopt suitable measures to enable the church to co-operate actively with the peace association of America? Answer: Our church itself being a peace association, we need not, as a body, co-operate with others, but we may, as individuals, give our influence in favor of peace.

ART. 14. Whereas, there are many committees called for every year, would it not be advisable for the standing committee of the Annual Meeting to be careful, and not to se-

lect too many from their own body, as it might appear to some as if they would like to do all the business themselves? Answer: We advise as Paul does, when he says: "Observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."

Art. 15. The church of Luney's Creek asks our district to petition the Annual Meeting to change the name of our district from that of the "Third District of Virginia," to that of the "District of West Virginia," so that the publication of our business may be understood without mistake. Answer: The petition was granted.

Art. 16. Will not this district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting to modify or change a small portion of the answer to Art. 8, of 1874, where it says: "You have no authority to go into acknowledged territory of any organized church to make appointments for preaching, unless called by the elder or council of said church. It is an assumption of authority for an ordained elder to do so," and not limit them; for the Savior says: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark xvi. 15. Answer: We know of no reason why we should make any change, and therefore make none.

Art 17. Why is it the custom of the brethren to hold their church council-meetings privately, while they hold their district and Annual Meetings publicly? Answer: Because the home councils are of a private character, according to Matt. xviii., while the business of the district and Annual Meetings is of a general character.

Art. 18. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is inconsistent for brethren that will not conform to the order of the church to preach, are not the elders neglecting a duty in suffering such to go on, and through their influence whole churches become out of order? And while the Annual Council has also decided that it is the duty of the adjoining elders to set such ministers and churches in order, will not this district-meeting and the Annual Meeting urge

the brethren to see that the general order of the brethren is more fully carried out? Answer: The southern district of Ohio urges the elders to do so, and this Annual Meeting does the same.

Art. 19. How is it considered for district-meetings to publish their proceedings, when the Annual Meeting, in 1866, has distinctly decided that it shall not be done? Answer: The districts should not publish their proceedings.

Art. 20. Inasmuch as the church has manifested a little of the missionary spirit during last year, in sending brethren to the State of Kentucky, we respectfully petition that brethren be sent to the northern part of Alabama and Tennessee adjoining, to build up and to comfort the body of brethren gathered together a few years since under the labors of A. J. Hixson. The number of members was about twenty-five. Answer: In regard to the petition for brethren to visit and preach in Alabama, we would say, we favor the idea, and appoint the following brethren as a committee to attend to the case: B. F. Moomaw, S. Z. Sharp, and H. Garst

Art. 21. What is the difference between a minister whose office is taken from him, and one that is silenced? and where shall such take their seats? Answer: Inasmuch as we fail to comprehend any material difference between the phrase, "his office taken from him," or "one that is silenced," we therefore make no difference; and in either case they shall take their seat with the laity.

Art. 22. Is it right, or according to the gospel, for brethren to have their property insured? Answer: We can not see that it is wrong to do so, if done in a mutual way. (See Art. 3, Minutes of 1864.)

Art. 23. We request this district and the Annual Meeting to give us a more definite decision on the stand question, so that the brethren may become more united in this long-agitated question. The way matters are now, heaven can not be pleased with us. While some go upon stands,

others stay down. If God's law teaches us to go on stands to preach, why not all go on them? And if it teaches us to stay down, why not all stay down? Let us have the gospel order in this as well as in all other matters. Let God's law be the man of our counsel in all matters. Answer: We think we can give no more satisfactory answer upon this subject than what we already have in the minutes of our Annual Meeting, especially in that of Art. 23, of the minutes of 1866.

Art. 24. As Christ never published himself, would it not be better for the brethren traveling and preaching not to publish themselves, in stating how many sermons they preached, and how many persons they baptized; as much as to say: "See what I have done?" Answer: Not advisable to do so.

Art. 25. We request this meeting, and the Annual Meeting, to agree to grant the power to the established districts of the states to choose their committees to settle difficulties, instead of the Annual Meeting, thereby saving expense and much labor in brethren traveling east and west. Sometimes business must also lie over for six or eight months, until brethren can get around. Answer: We can not consistently grant the power asked for, without repealing former decisions of the Annual Meeting.

Art. 26. Is it consistent with the gospel, and the order of the church, for the brethren to take part in the so-called lyceum, debating or declaiming society, or for ministering brethren to act as president, and thereby entice other members into the evil? Answer: We think it is unbecoming a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ to do so; and we would, therefore, most earnestly admonish our brethren to abstain from it. But should any of our brethren persist in taking part in such societies, they should be dealt with as other offenders, according to Matt. xviii. (See Rom. i. 29; I. Cor. xiii. 20; I. Tim. vi. 5[illegible]; see, also, decisions of Annual Meetings.)

ART. 27. Since the Annual Meeting has left it optional with brethren whether or not to salute colored brethren with the holy kiss, designing men are making capital of it against us. To obviate this, let the Annual Meeting reconsider that decision, and say that we make no difference on account of race or color; and this district-meeting asks the Annual Meeting to make no difference on account of race or color. Answer: We grant the request, but should have regard to the former minutes of Annual Meetings upon the subject, and advise the brethren to bear with one another.

ART. 28. If a member is disowned, and gets a committee to investigate his case, and that committee justifies the church in the course it has taken, has that committee the right to reinstate that member without consulting the church? Answer: No.

ART. 29. Inasmuch as there exists a strong demand for tracts advocating the faith and practice of the brethren, we earnestly recommend a more united effort to carry forward this work, and facilitate the publication and circulation of works of this character, subject, before publication, to the examination and approval of competent and well-established brethren; therefore, we earnestly recommend that the brethren give this matter an earnest and prayerful consideration. Approved by order of the district-meeting, and confirmed by this Annual Meeting.

ART. 30. A member, obtaining a letter of membership, moves into another church. Said church, knowing that said member had a certificate of membership, therefore fellowships said member for about one year. Said member willingly neglects to hand in his letter of membership to the church, and during his stay in the said church becomes disobedient, causing much trouble, and moving away in this condition, forfeits his word, disregards the advice and good counsel of the Annual Meeting, and the judgment of said church. Now, has the church from which said

member moved last, got the proper authority to disown or disfellowship said member, if he continues disobedient or stubborn in not hearing said church? Answer: The church from which he obtained his letter should deal with him.

Art. 31. The southern district of Missouri petitions and entreats the Annual Meeting to restrict our editors in publication of matter derogatory to or militating against the advice, counsel, and decision, as given by our beloved brethren, at our Annual Meetings, from time to time, such as advocating high schools, salaried preachers, musical instruments, etc. Answer: We caution our editors, and all our brethren, from writing or publishing any thing against the acknowledged doctrines of the church.

Art. 32. Is it understood that the decisions of the Annual Meeting, as heretofore given, against brethren serving as jurors in the courts of our country, apply to serving as grand jurors, whose duty is only to find a bill against the party to be tried in law, or are they to apply only against serving as a petit juror, whose duty is to find a verdict in the trial? Answer: They are considered to apply to both juries. (See Encyclopedia, pages 122, 123.)

Art. 33. How is it looked at by our fraternity for a minister of ours to preach and debate publicly in favor of the final restoration of all men? Answer: Brethren should not do so.

Art. 34. Report of the committee to California: We, the undersigned, a committee sent by the Annual Meeting to set in order things that are wanting among the brethren in California, met pursuant to appointment, agreed upon by the elders and brethren residing here, at the house of Bro. Michael Sissler, and after a season of devotion and consultation as to the legality of the proceedings, Bro. George Wolf, with a number of brethren, retired for private consultation. They returning, the voice was taken to decide whether or not the committee is received to investigate

the difficulties existing, and they were accepted by a unanimous vote of the members present. We then proceeded as follows:

First: To examine the reasons why certain members did not hand in their letters to the church:

Reason 1st: That a committee of four brethren waited on Elder Wolf, to try to effect a union, and requested him to appoint a church-meeting for that purpose, which he refused to do, but said that if they would agree to hand in their letters, he would call a church-meeting for that purpose (no other), and if they would agree to be subject to the established order of the church in California, and say nothing about settled matters.

It being proved to our satisfaction that there was disorder in the church, and Elder Wolf refusing to call the church together to investigate matters, we decide that he erred in this, and that it was a sufficient reason for withholding their letters.

Reason 2d: That there were two cases of adultery in the church, and and that Elder Wolf justified them. It was proved that a certain man named Whelock left his wife, and that she was afterward married to another man by Elder Wolf, her first husband (so far as known) still living, and he not even charged with fornication, and the parties so being married were held as members, but not allowed to occupy the office of deacon. Elder Wolf, also, with the counsel of eight members, baptized a woman by the name of Cheatersty, while living with a man who had another wife. Answer: We decide that both cases were absolutely adulterous, and that Elder Wolf did wrong in baptizing in the one case, and in celebrating the marriage in the other, and we require an acknowledgment of him, and of the eight members, also, that gave counsel in the case, and exhort him and them to be more careful in the future.

Reason 3d: Elder Wolf also claims the Annual Meeting to be legislative, and refuses to be subject to its counsel. For the answer, see Art. No. 7.

Reason 4th: Being asked if he would commune with brethren when they wash feet in the double mode, said he could not conscientiously do so. Answer: In view of the position that Elder Wolf and his adherents occupy, as set forth in the allegation, that they will not wash feet in the double mode, we therefore, in order to give those who differ from them an opportunity to practice as their judgment and conscience dictate, are compelled to organize a church in California in the order of the general brotherhood, under the care and oversight of Elders Isaac Hershey and Michael Sissler, and ordain that the churches establish a line, and divide themselves as seems best to them, as we are not acquainted with the geography of the country as respects their several localities.

Reason 5th: They do not practice the kiss between the supper and the communion, nor read the Scriptures, nor speak of the sufferings of Christ, at that time, neither do they close with prayer at the close of the services on such occasions. Answer: We decide and exhort that they from henceforth adopt the practice of the general brotherhood in those things on such occasions.

Reason 6th: E. L. Prather, a minister, said the cause of the trouble here is, there are two parties of us; we are the Congregational party, the other the Annual Meeting party; we are governed by the word of God, the others by the elders of the Annual Meeting. He admits the charge, and makes the following acknowledgment by his signature:

"Required, that he acknowledge that his language, as used in the charge, reflects seriously upon the Annual Meeting, but as explained to mean congregational in a limited sense, which is accepted, provided he now acknowledges the supremacy of the Annual Meeting, and agrees to respect its counsels and co-operate with the general brotherhood, giving and taking counsel.

"Signed, E. L. Prather."

Reason 7th: Elders Wolf and Meyers stand charged for writing hard expressions in the "Gospel Trumpet." Charge sustained by the articles over their names; and we, the committee, decide that the language in said articles, when viewed literally, is very distasteful, and reflects seriously upon the dignity of the Annual Meeting, and demands an acknowledgment at the hands of the authors. But as interpreted to mean congregational in a limited sense, which is accepted, provided they now acknowledge the supremacy of the Annual Meeting, and agree to respect its counsels, and co-operate with the general brotherhood in giving and in taking counsel, and also to withdraw their names and influence from said "Gospel Trumpet."

Reason 8th: They will not indorse the action of the committee sent by the Annual Meeting to Missouri, in 1872, but hold those denounced members in full fellowship. This charge not sustained by the evidence.

Reason 9th: That the church in California is in a bad state. Pride is tolerated too much. Even Elder Wolf has departed from the order of the brotherhood in simplicity of dress, and some sisters wearing hats, ribbons, veils, and other superfluities. Answer: That there is a departure from the order of the church in fashion and dress, is fully sustained by the evidence, and that Elder Wolf has not fully discharged his duty in suppressing and restraining pride, is also manifest. We therefore admonish and exhort him to exercise the functions of his office with the church, in keeping order in this as well as other things.

Reason 10th: That Elder Wolf received and fellowshiped expelled members as brethren and officers in the church, after being informed that they were expelled by letters from the church from whence they came, disregarding the letters, and received them because of their appearance, etc. Elder Wolf explained that the complaint is true in part, and that he was deceived by those men (Flory and Gibson) in part, and that he received them as a matter of courtesy,

and not as brethren. Answer: Considered by us, that as these circumstances have transpired a long time since, and have been before the church time and again, that we dismiss them with a brotherly admonition, that Bro. Wolf erred in associating with these persons as he did, and exhort him in the future to adhere to the scriptural injunction to hold such as a heathen man and a publican, and in all cases respect the action of sister churches regarding the validity of their letters, etc., rather than the person of expelled members.

Reason 11th: That a deacon baptized in the presence of Elder Wolf. This allegation was sustained by the evidence, but explained by Bro. Broadherst, the deacon who officiated, that the duty of baptizing and celebrating marriage was voted upon him by the church, and given him in charge, when installed in office, to perform these duties when necessary, etc. Answer: With the above information before us, we thought best to dismiss the case.

Charges preferred by the brethren claiming to be the church of California, against certain persons among those refusing to hand in their letters, etc.:

Charge 1st: Against Elder Hershey, Peter Garman, and others, for organizing a church, and doing church business, within the limits of an organized branch. Answer: Not sustained by the evidence.

Charge 2d: Against Henry Haines, for saying he would not be satisfied until Elder Wolf's office was taken from him, and that the church would never prosper until it was done. Haines denies, and it is dismissed for want of evidence.

Charge 3d: Against Peter Garman, for attempting to read in public his letter, and those of several others, thereby causing hard feelings among the brethren, and much talk among the outside world. This was done after having an opportunity to read them the day before at church council. Confessed and explained. Answer: Considered,

that it was out of order to read those letters before the public, but inasmuch as he was subject to the call to order by Elder Wolf, that we lay no further penalty upon him.

Charge 4th: Against Henry Haines, for visiting public saloons, and drinking therein. Considered, that upon hearing his explanation, we lay no further burden upon him than an admonition to him, and all others, to abstain from such appearance of evil, and that we show a better light to the world.

Charge 5th: Against Bro. Hoxie, for holding the idea of not praying at all in public, and other heretical doctrines, and preaching them publicly and privately. He admits the charge, but says, and also proved, that he has, and did, very soon recant those doctrines, and acknowledges his wrong. Answer: We consider that the proceedings against him were informal, but as he was much out of order, we now require a frank acknowledgment of him.

The report, as above recorded, was read, re-read, and explained, then submitted, and was unanimously accepted by all the members present, and the requisitions complied with, and we having discharged the duty assigned us in the fear of God, according to our humble ability, submit all into the hands of that body from whom we received our authority, for its approval or rejection, and into the hand of God, the Supreme Ruler of all events, praying that he may, and will, overrule all for the advancement of his cause, for the good of his children, and for the glory of his name. Respectfully submitted by your committee—H. D. Davy, B. F. Moomaw.

San Joaquin County, Cal., Nov. 2, 1874.

The above report was accepted by the Annual Meeting.

Art. 35. The committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1874, to collect the minutes of former Annual Meetings, held since the Brethren's Encyclopedia was published, finding a wish among the brethren to have the minutes omitted in the Encyclopedia published, as well as those

passed by Annual Meetings since that work was published, have delayed our work until the Annual Meeting gives us further instruction. Shall we, then, publish all the minutes of Annual Meetings that can be collected, or only those passed by the Annual Meetings since the publication of the Brethren's Encyclopedia? Answer: Let all be published, and the work be called, "Minutes of Annual Councils."

Art. 36. Committees to visit churches: 1. A committee to settle difficulties relative to Bourbon College. The following brethren constitute said committee: Hiel Hamilton, Robert H. Miller, John Metzger, H. D. Davy, and J. P. Ebersole. The same committee will go to the Tippecanoe Church, Indiana. 2. A committee to visit the Philadelphia Church. The following brethren are on this committee: H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, Moses Miller, C. Bucher, and Jos. R. Hanawalt. 3. A committee to visit the church in Ogle County, Illinois, that called for a committee. The following brethren are on this committee: Daniel Fry, E. Eby, David E. Price, Daniel Deardorf, and James R. Gish.

Art. 37. Miscellaneous: 1. Inasmuch as there has been no request for the Annual Meeting for 1875, and as the meeting would properly go east of the Ohio River, we recommend the matter to the brethren in the east, and trust they will consider the subject, and announce the result to the brotherhood as soon as possible. 2. In view of the kindness shown by friends in this community to our brethren during this meeting, by entertaining them very freely, as far, apparently, as was necessary, we acknowledge their kindness, and return them our thanks. 3. A resolution was passed to take up a collection for the needy in the west.

The meeting closed with singing and prayer.

A. H. Senseney, Em. Slifer, Wm. Hertzler, Jos. R. Hanawalt, J. Quinter, H. B. Hylton, Jacob Wine, Elias Auvil, Jacob Garber, J. P. Ebersole, H. D. Davy, D. B. Sturgis,

Jesse Meyers, Hiel Hamilton, Enoch Eby, John Metzger, James R. Gish, Tobias Musser, C. Long, Jacob Brower, S. S. Mohler, Sam. Stump, Isaac Miller, J. W. Brumbaugh.

ANNUAL MEETING OF 1876.

The standing committee met on Monday, June 5th, near De Graff, Logan County, Ohio, and organized by appointing H. D. Davy moderator, J. Quinter clerk, E. Eby reading-clerk, and J. Thomas doorkeeper.

After the devotional exercises on Tuesday morning, the General Council of the church proceeded to business, and the following queries being presented for consideration, were considered in the fear of the Lord, and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. Whereas, there seems to be a disposition on the part of some of our brethren to consume much time on many of the queries that come before our Annual Meeting, and some even become very personal in their remarks; and, whereas, this has caused hard feelings, and severe censure; be it therefore resolved, that the following rules be adopted for the government of our Annual Meeting in the transaction of its business: 1. All queries for discussion, with their answers, shall be read by the clerk, after which the moderator shall declare the same open for discussion. 2. The reading of any question may be called for the second time, but not oftener if there be objections made. 3. No brother shall have the privilege of making more than two speeches on the same subject, except by the consent of the meeting, and the first shall not be longer than fifteen, and the last than five minutes. 4. The moderator shall require every brother, when speaking, to confine his remarks to the subject before the meeting. 5. Any brother using personalities in his speech, shall be called to order by the

moderator; and if he persist, he shall be told to take his seat. 6. The moderator shall decide who has the right to the floor, and when his time expires. 7. The moderator shall decide when the discussion on each subject shall close, and when the question shall be put on its final passage. But if objection be made to his ruling, then the standing committee must unite with him in deciding the matter. 8. It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order in the congregation; and for this purpose he may call to his assistance other brethren, or the standing committee may call on brethren to keep order.

All former rules not in conflict with the foregoing shall continue in force.

Art. 2. Whereas, the question of a full report has been before the Annual Meeting time and again for consideration; and, whereas, upon the propriety of such a report a difference of opinion obtains among the brethren; therefore, resolved, that this meeting will not assume the responsibility of granting such a report. But should any brethren publish it, they shall be held responsible for any wrong that may be committed in doing so. And we also decide that it shall not be published in any of our periodicals.

Art. 3. Is it agreeable to the gospel and faith, and order of the brethren, to hold the office of school director under the present laws of Pennsylvania? Answer: We think it best for brethren not to serve in such capacity, where a school director, according to the laws of the state, may have to collect school-tax, and imprison a person if he does not pay his tax.

Art. 4. Is it right to reject all queries coming before the Annual Meeting, simply because they do not contain a proviso to repeal all other queries previously passed by Annual Meetings, which may conflict with the last one presented? Answer: While we do not think it always necessary, in a formal manner, to reconsider a former query before another answer to the query is made, nevertheless

we consider it best to refer to former decisions, and have it understood that such decisions are void when they conflict with the last decision.

ART. 5. Inasmuch as the brethren's hymn-book, as now published, is very deficient in selections adapted to the wants of the church, and also contains a large number of badly-composed hymns, this meeting petitions the Annual Meeting for the privilege of publishing a new book, or to have the present one thoroughly revised. This meeting further petitions that the Annual Meeting appoint for this work a committee of four brethren, thoroughly posted in versification, and then grant to each of our publishing brethren the privilege of publishing their own books, or those they need, to supply their patrons, or else have them published jointly, as may be determined upon by the publishers, but not to be copyrighted. Answer: We think it best to make no change in regard to our hymn-book.

ART. 6. We ask for a reconsideration of Art. 11, of last year. Answer: We agree to reconsider the above query, and think that the delegate should first represent the sentiments of the district-meeting, but after doing so, should have the privilege of speaking his own sentiments.

ART. 8. We respectfully ask the Annual Meeting, through the district-meeting, to say what course should be pursued when a committee from the Annual Meeting has been sent to adjust matters in a congregation where there are two elders, between whom some unkindness and want of social relations exist, yet no grave charge against either. Is it legitimate to suspend them at home only, and to put in authority over said church an unordained brother, and hold church and officers amenable to said committee until said elders cultivate social relations with each other, with the promise by said committee that as soon as these conditions are complied with, all should be restored; and when elders have complied, for said committee to withdraw their connection from said church, and leave it in that unorganized

condition? Answer: In reference to the above subject we would say that we can not accept of the answer given by the district-meeting, but would say, that in view of the known conditions of the case, we submit it to the church involved in the trouble, and the five following elders: Isaac Long, Jacob Thomas, Solomon Garber, Jacob Wine, and Martin Garber.

Art. 8. Why does the church, after exacting a promise of non-conformity to the world in appearance as a condition of membership, accept brethren as participants in the deliberations of the Annual Meeting who disregard this solemn promise? Answer: No brother ought to be permitted to speak in public at our Annual Meetings who will dress after the fashion of the world.

Art. 9. How is it considered when brethren receive those of other denominations into their houses, and ask them to give thanks at their tables, and hold family worship? What is to be done in such cases? or does the gospel allow that liberty in any case? Answer: While we would not, under all circumstances, think it wrong to extend the liberty above alluded to, we think the brethren should be careful in granting such liberty. The character of our guests, and the attendant circumstances, should govern in such cases.

Art. 10. A request that the Annual Meeting limit the power of committees, so as not to allow them to expel a majority of any church, unless their decision is ratified by the Annual Meeting in open session. Answer: The request is granted.

Art. 11. We wish the Annual Meeting to say whether we shall have a rolling or standing collar on our coats. Answer: While we can not positively say which of the above forms of the coat should be worn, we would advise the brethren to try to become more uniform and plain, rather than to depart from the order of plainness, not only in our coats, but in every thing else.

ART. 12. Is it right for an elder, or for elders, to take up charges and act upon them without name or authorship? Answer: An elder may receive a complaint from a report injurious to the Christian character of a brother, without the name of the person who makes the complaint, but a direct charge against a member should be accompanied by the name of the brother that makes the charge.

ART. 13. Is it right for members to get those fine, costly, and fashionable burial-cases to bury their dead in, and to employ a fashionable hearse to convey them to the burying-ground in? Answer: We decide it is not right for brethren to do so.

ART. 14. As we consider that the grape juice is not wine until after fermentation has taken place, will not this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to repeal the wine question of last year, and decide that only the fermented juice of the grape shall be used on communion occasions, as has always been the practice of the church? Answer: We decide that no change shall be made from the last decision.

ART. 15. Is it according to the gospel, and order of the brethren, when a brother is elected to the ministry, and accepts the office, and is installed, and afterward gets disobedient, and says he can not preach, for the church to release him so far that he is not under any obligations to preach only in case he should feel to do so, and thereby help him to live in disobedience, and give him liberty to serve as a deacon, when he was never elected to a deacon's office? If so, let the gospel authority be presented. Answer: We consider it neither according to the gospel nor the order of the brethren to do so.

ART. 16. A brother has a dairy, and objections were made against him for furnishing his customers milk on Sunday, claiming that brethren would do no more harm to work on their farms on Sunday. The brother claims that his customers, many of them, are ministers, and ministers

of Sabbatarian churches, who say they must have their milk; besides, he furnishes milk for the sick, and for children raised by the bottle; and he says not to be allowed to furnish the milk would ruin his business, and subject him to heavy loss. What is to be done in the case? Answer: We can not grant a brother liberty to furnish milk on the Sabbath to his customers, only to the sick and to the children, and we advise him to get out of the business as soon as possible.

Art. 17. We petition the Annual Meeting to reconsider the following words, found in the plan for holding district-meetings, adopted by the Annual Meeting of 1866: "A record may be kept, but not published," and so amend the same as to give liberty to the district-meetings to print minutes of their proceedings for distribution among the members of their respective districts. Answer: This Annual Meeting reconsiders said words, and grants the privilege asked for.

Art. 13. Is it right, according to the gospel and the order of the church, for members to attend the Centennial? Answer: No. (See John xv. 17–19, xvi. 14–16; II. Cor. vi. 14–18; I. John iv. 7; James iv. 4.)

Art. 19. Is it right, according to the gospel, for a brother to plead the laws of the land, and act as an attorney? Answer: The brethren have always considered it not according to the gospel for a brother to practice law and act as an attorney, and we can make no change in this respect.

Art. 20. Should a brother (being executor) be allowed, after fearing some of the papers might not be worth full value, to use means to get another brother to go security on said papers, and thereby run the risk of the estate; and shall such executor be allowed to sue such brother, and collect such amount in full, or only the amount the paper was worth before the security was on, the whole matter being under the control of the church? Answer: We consider it wrong, according to our understanding of the case,

for the brother who was the executor to get his Christian brother to go on the paper as security, and it was very wrong for the executor to sue his Christian brother.

ART. 21. Is it wrong for sisters to wear fashionable hats instead of bonnets? and where is the Scripture forbidding the wearing of such hats? Answer: We decide it is wrong according to Rom. XII. 2; I. Tim. II. 9.

ART. 22. What does the Annual Meeting consider should be done with elders and others, who make promise to a committee sent by the Annual Meeting to set things in order among them, and then do not respect the reports made to them by the committee, and do not comply with their promises for eighteen months or two years? Answer: This Annual Meeting authorizes the committee appointed to California in 1874, to see that their report is properly carried out.

ART. 23. Whereas, we have a query from No. 1 district of Virginia, one from West Virginia, one from the middle district of Indiana, and one from the southern district of Indiana, requesting the Annual Meeting to grant the district-meetings power to send committees to settle difficulties in the churches; therefore, resolved, that we decide to make no change in this respect, believing our present manner of sending committees is preferable to the one proposed.

ART. 24. Whereas, a number of queries have come to this Annual Meeting relative to a change in the manner of holding said meeting; and, whereas, the changes proposed, though various, would not change the meeting very much from the present way in which it is held; and, whereas, the change proposed will not probably lessen to any very great extent the multitude in attendance; therefore, resolved, taking all things into consideration, that we make no general change, but will adhere as closely as possible to the plan adopted in 1866, and labor to lessen as much as possible the attendance at the meeting, and increase its facilities for business.

ART. 25. Several queries and requests relative to feet-washing being presented to the meeting, the following was prepared to meet the case: Whereas, the so-called double mode in feet-washing is the recognized mode of the general brotherhood; therefore, the Annual Meeting can not grant the liberty prayed for, and no church can change from the double to the single mode on the authority of the Annual Meeting. Deferred.

ART. 26. To the Annual Meeting of the German Baptist brethren, for the year of our Lord, 1876, we send greeting: Inasmuch as a committee sent to the Brush Creek Church, Adams County, Ohio, by the Annual Meeting of 1874, found that we of the above-named church asked the questions to applicants for baptism before going into the water; that we had in part adopted the single mode of feet-washing, and that we dismissed our congregations with a benediction, said committee required of us that we abandon the last, practice the double mode of feet-washing, and to send the first to the Annual Meeting. The Brush Creek Church, in consultation upon these subjects, has unanimously decided to practice the single mode of feet-washing, to continue the use of the benediction, and to ask questions to applicants before going into the water, as it formerly has done. And we request this district-meeting of southern Ohio to send to the Annual Meeting these three questions, to-wit: 1. Is it wrong to dismiss a congregation with a benediction? 2. Are we wrong in washing feet by the single mode? 3. Is it wrong to ask questions to applicants for baptism before going into the water? And inasmuch as the Brush Creek Church, in southern Ohio, is dissatisfied with their district-meeting of 1874, because it called to the Annual Meeting of that year for a committee to visit our church upon mere report; is dissatisfied with the Annual Meeting of 1874, because it appointed said committee on said report, and contrary to its own law; is also dissatisfied with that committee for coming here, without any

notice to us of what they were coming for; we therefore ask a satisfactory explanation of the whole proceeding, or an acknowledgment to us by each of those bodies for their conduct in these matters.

Query 1st: Can the Annual Meeting claim its decisions as advice only (See Minutes of 1866, Art. 34), and at the same time threaten with expulsion those who do not obey them?

Query 2d: Is a committee justifiable in threatening a church with expulsion, after admitting that said church has all the essentials of salvation?

We also ask of the district-meeting of southern Ohio, to recognize Wm. Calvert and Landon West as delegates from the Brush Creek Church to the district and Annual Meetings of our brethren for the year 1876.

May Hill, Adams Co., Ohio, April 15, 1876.

Whereas, a committee was sent by the Annual Meeting of 1874, to the Brush Creek Church, in Adams County, Ohio, to set things in order in said church; and, whereas, the report of said committee was accepted by said church, but it has not only failed but refused to carry out said report; therefore, resolved, that we can not consistently do otherwise than hold said church to the carrying out of the report of the committee, as it promised to do, and also require of it to take back certain offensive charges contained in an address to the district of southern Ohio, and through it to the Annual Meeting, dated April 15, 1876.

The following committee, being the committee sent in 1874, is re-appointed to go to said church to do whatever is necessary to be done in the case: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, and John Wise. J. Quinter was added to the committee.

Art. 27. The committee, namely, H. D. Davy, Moses Miller, Jos. R. Hanawalt, Christian Bucher, and J. Quinter, appointed by the last Annual Meeting to visit the Philadelphia Church, to settle difficulties in said church, met in

Philadelphia on the 27th of October, 1875, and organized by appointing H. D. Davy foreman, and J. Quinter clerk, and after devotional exercises proceeded to hear the grievances from the grieved brethren, which were the following: 1. They (the majority) have a paid minister not elected from among the brethren in Philadelphia, but "called" from a distance, and have given him pre-eminence over older ministers chosen by the church. Considered by the committee, that while it is contrary to the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to pay the minister any particular sum as a salary, and while we should guard with care against the practice, in the case under consideration, it does not appear that any particular amount was contracted for by the parties concerned, although money was made more prominent than is commendable in such cases. And in regard to the pre-eminence, we decide there was not the caution taken by the church to avoid offense that should have been taken, and that Bro. J. P. Hetric should not have pre-eminence over Bro. Custer, touching the liberty to preach the word. 2. They (the majority) require this paid minister to do the principal part of the preaching, disregarding the order of the brethren that our ministers shall have the privilege to preach by turns. Considered, from the testimony that came before us, in the fact that the meetings were advertised in the papers for Bro. Hetric, and that, as pastor of the church, there was an error committed, and an admonition is necessary. 3. They (the majority) set aside the reading of the Scripture in order by the deacons, a rule established when the church was organized in Philadelphia. Considered, that as there is no general order among the brethren in regard to this usage, whatever the church decides upon should be acquiesced in by all the members. 4. They (the majority) make basket collections of money on Sundays, during meetings for worship. Considered wrong, and contrary to the order of the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to make collections on the Lord's-day, save

for the poor, and the brethren should cease to do so. 5. They (the majority) have a wooden pool under the pulpit, in which they baptize in the meeting-house. Considered, that inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is wrong to make use of a pool in a house, for the purpose of baptizing, the brethren have erred in using said pool since, and shall cease to do so until reconsidered by the Annual Meeting. 6. They (the majority) make Sunday-school anniversaries, entertainments, excursions, etc. Considered, that inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is wrong to have Sunday-school picnics, anniversaries, entertainments, etc., that the brethren erred in taking part as they did, and should abstain hereafter from doing so. 7. They (the majority) have a Sunday-school library, consisting mostly of books of religious fiction. Considered, that inasmuch as the brethren in Annual Meeting have advised brethren, in conducting Sabbath-schools, to use such books as contain nothing that conflicts with the principles of the gospel, as held by the brethren, said counsel should be observed by the brethren in procuring books for Sabbath-schools. 8. They (the majority) have instrumental music in the Sunday-school. Considered, that according to the understanding of the gospel by the brethren, and as given in councils of the Annual Meetings, it is considered wrong for members to have musical instruments, we therefore decide that the brethren should cease to use an instrument of music in the Sabbath-school. 9. They (the majority) are, in all the above new things, in unison with the popular and fashionable religion, having abandoned the non-conformity testimonies and practice of the brotherhood. Considered, that from the foregoing grievance, and from the departure we see, we would most earnestly and affectionately urge the brethren and sisters of the Philadelphia Church to adhere to the doctrine of non-conformity to the world in dress, in spirit, and in every way that doctrine can be applied, as this constitutes such

a prominent doctrine of the gospel, and one of the peculiarities of our brotherhood. H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, J. R. Hanawalt, C. Bucher, M. Miller.

In regard to the case of the Philadelphia Church, we accept of the report of the committee sent to said church, and reappoint the committee first appointed to have the said report carried out.

Art. 28. Inasmuch as there has been a certain legacy bequeathed to the standing committee of the German Baptist Church by the last will and testament of Solomon G. Karn; and inasmuch as said money was bequeathed on certain specified conditions, we here give the last will and testament by which said bequest is made to the standing committee of the German Baptist Church:

"Know all men by these presents, that I, Solomon G. Karn, of the County of Wabash, and State of Indiana, being of sound mind, do make and publish this, my last will and testament.

"First: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Martha L. Karn, lots Nos. 49 and 50, in the town of Manchester, in said county and state, and now occupied by us as our home; also, a certain tract of land in Douglas County, and State of Kansas, belonging to me, and for which I am entitled to a deed, to have as her own, or convey by deed in fee simple, as she may choose; also, all and every article of personal property in our possession, including my mare, buggy and harness, and four hundred dollars, to be paid to her as soon as it can be collected from my outstanding claims.

"I will, further, that my wife shall have the selection of my tombstones, and that my executor pay for them out of the residue of my estate, together with any expense they may apply to my grave.

"Second: It is hereby expressly provided, that should there hereafter an heir be born to me, the residue of my moneys and effects (after the payment of my debts) shall

be placed at interest, to the best advantage, for the benefit of said heir, when arriving at majority, but the interest of said money shall be paid annually to my wife, and be subject to her control during her natural life.

"In the event said posthumous child should die before my wife, the interest shall still be paid to my wife, as [and] in the event that my wife and said child should both die before the child becomes of age of majority, then the remainder of estate shall be paid to the standing committee of the first annual conference of the German Baptist Church (of which I am a member), to be used by said committee for the spread of the gospel, or for the purpose of charity, as they shall think right and proper.

"If at any time, by misfortune or illness, the interest, as above, should prove insufficient for the support of my wife, as provided, she shall have of the principal to meet expenditures.

"Third: I do hereby nominate and appoint John Bussard, of Miami County, Indiana, executor of this my last will and testament. I do hereby revoke all former wills by me made.

"In testimony hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 12th day of November, A. D. 1868.

"SOLOMON G. KARN [Seal.]"

"Signed and acknowledged by said Solomon G. Karn, as his last will and testament, in our presence, and signed by us in his presence.

"WESLEY BUSSARD,
"J. B. HARTER."

Will proved before James M. Amars, clerk Wabash County Court Common Pleas, on the 19th day of December, 1868, by Wesley Bussard.

We, the brethren of the German Baptist Church, assembled in conference at the meeting-house of the brethren in Logan County, Ohio, on the 6th day of June, 1876, decide that the prospective bequest made in the aforesaid last will

and testament of Solomon G. Karn, in favor of the German Baptist Church, shall be released. And we hereby authorize the standing committee of this meeting to sign a release of said prospective claim, as set forth in the foregoing will, giving to the mother of said posthumous child, which child is a daughter, now living, and about the age of —— years, all the right, title, claim, and interest prospectively held by us in the aforesaid will.

The German Baptist Church, to which the contingent fund above alluded to has been intrusted, having some fears that the foregoing release may not be sufficient to meet the laws of the State of Indiana, appoint the following brethren, and give them full power to make any release of the funds above alluded to that the laws of the State of Indiana may require: H. D. Davy, Samuel Mohler, and Isaac Studebaker.

Passed by the unanimous consent of this Annual Meeting.

Art. 29. Committees to visit churches: 1. A committee to visit Dry Valley Church, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. The following brethren constitute the committee: John Gluck, Solomon Seiber, and Geo. Brumbaugh. 2. The following brethren are a committee to go to the West Nimishillen Church, Stark County, Ohio: R. H. Miller, Daniel Brower, and J. P. Ebersole. 3. The following brethren are a committee to go to the English River Church, Iowa: E. K. Beeghly, Peter Forney, and M. Sisler. 4. In compliance with a request from the George's Creek Church, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, for a committee, the following brethren were appointed: D. P. Sayler, John Wise, and J. Quinter. 5. The following brethren are a committee to the Welsh Run Church, Pennsylvania: D. P. Sayler, J. D. Trostle, and Jacob Price. 6. The following brethren are a committee to the Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pennsylvania: D. Long, D. Keller, and Daniel Eckerman

ART. 30. A request was made by the middle district of Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting of 1877, which was granted. Accordingly, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren in the district above named, and in the congregation selected by the proper authority. The place will be announced in due time in our periodicals.

After a season of devotional exercises, the meeting adjourned.

Standing committee: D. P. Sayler, D. Long, Samuel Harley, M. Miller, J. Quinter, E. Fleshman, I. Long, D. B. Arnold, G. Irwin, J. Brown, H. D. Davy, M. Shotts, J. Flory, R. H. Miller, E. Eby, D. E. Price, J. Metzger, Jos. Ogg, Abr. Stamy, Daniel Zook, Wm. Gish, Isaac Miller.

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